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Baena Asks OAS Members for New Commitment To Fight Poverty

PA1802195494 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Report by Paloma Boves from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Latin America's problems of democracy and extreme poverty have once again come to the fore. During the inauguration of the 20th extraordinary period of sessions of the Inter-American Cooperation for Development General Assembly at the Foreign Minister, OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares warned that the downtrodden need much more than just a chance to be heard in order to maintain stability and democracy in the region.

[Begin Baena Soares recording] Just giving the downtrodden a chance to be heard is not enough to improve the fate of large segments of our society, rescue them from scarcity and exploitation, and ensure their full right to live with hope. We need sustainable democracy to overcome extreme poverty. [end recording]

Speaking to 20 Latin American foreign ministers and 34 special delegates from member countries, Baena Soares warned government representatives of the danger that extreme poverty and social injustice may break the region's democratic order. Recalling the Mexico Declaration, signed in March 1945, which emphasizes the right of equal opportunity for all people in the hemisphere, Baena Soares hit the nail on the head when he affirmed that more progress is made today consolidating wealth than in halting the avalanche of extreme poverty and neglect, although the growth of these factors dampens possibilities for stability, development, and peace, which the countries of Latin America require to advance on the path of democracy.

As an example, the OAS secretary general said that 230 million citizens in the region lack the resources to meet their basic needs. He stressed that in at least 11 Latin American and Caribbean countries, the available first-hand information reveals that one-fifth of the population earns less than 6 percent of the total per capita income. He noted that even those societies that have achieved high levels of production exhibit serious deficiencies linked to the displacement of indigenous communities, neglected populations, a lack of food and housing, high rates of crime and violence, the illegal trafficking and use of drugs, and environmental deterioration.

Baena Soares noted that among the international community, close to 6.5 percent of the labor force in the wealthier countries is jobless. The unemployment rate of the hemisphere's industrialized countries is almost 7 percent. This segment of society, the poorest, must work an average of nine weeks to acquire the resources earned in just one week by the richer 20 percent. Although cold and repetitive, the figures are a cause for reflection after almost half a century of OAS assemblies, where extreme poverty, injustice, and democracy are recurrent themes. The OAS secretary general stressed the need for the OAS member countries to ratify their commitment to base the preservation of democratic order on an open struggle against extreme poverty and on the consolidation of social justice. American countries, he said, have the resources to defeat poverty.

In turn, Mexican Foreign Minister Manuel Tello, who was elected president of the extraordinary assembly, stated during the inaugural ceremony that Mexico is convinced that the people's aspirations for justice and welfare demand an end to the backwardness and neglect in which millions of Latin American live. That, he said, can only be achieved as peoples and governments make new commitments to cooperation and development. The war on extreme poverty, Tello concluded, should become a priority of the OAS, because inequality hurts everyone.

OAS Members Commit To Fight Poverty, Defend Democracy

PA1902224794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0105 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The 20th OAS special session closed here today with a commitment to zero in attention on social problems in order to overcome poverty and consolidate democracy on the continent.

Mexican Foreign Minister Manuel Tello Macias, who presided over the meeting, said at the session's closing that "as of today, the OAS will tackle the social problems of our nations on a priority basis." Tello Macias and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares considered the meeting named "Inter-American Cooperation for Development" to be finished.

The commitment by the 34 OAS members materialized in two documents that contain the conclusions reached following two days of discussions between foreign ministers and representatives at the Foreign Relations Secretariat headquarters in Mexico City. On 18 February the delegates signed the documents entitled "Commitment To Promote Joint Cooperation and Overcome Poverty" and "Framework of General Policies and Priorities of Joint Cooperation for Development."

The first document seeks primarily to strengthen democratic institutions and contribute to maintaining peace and security in the hemisphere as a formula for overcoming the poverty that affects 43 percent of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean. This document urges the "promotion of joint cooperation for development as an OAS goal and as a suitable tool to support ... local development efforts." The American countries committed themselves to promote cooperation "without seeking to impose preestablished individual models and by valuing direct participation from the communities." The document states that "the strengthening of national programs designed to meet the basic

needs of the population" is necessary to stem the poverty problem, particulariy regarding the most vulnerable sectors of society.

The second document pointed out that joint cooperation for development will support efforts br OAS states to achieve full and sustainable growth. Specifically, the delegates will seek to contribute to the eradication of poverty from the continent to strengthen the commitment and the consolidation of democracy in the area and its institutions.

The document is comprised of a framework of priorities for the OAS and the Inter-American Council for Integrated Development (CIDI). Those priorities include the improvement of nutrition and health levels, attention to population issues such as family planning, support for education, promotion of productive employment, and support for the fight against drugs.

The delegates agreed that in order to support the poor sectors "other actions are required (such as) insuring larger and more efficient social expenditures in accordance with the priorities and criteria established in each country." They added that the OAS will welcome regional projects that respond to multinational initiatives and that facilitate the participation of public and private organizations.

The OAS offered to give special attention to countries that "have faced serious situations of armed violence and that are rebuilding their economies."

The foreign ministers and officials in charge of development programs who attended the meeting agreed to share their experiences as well as "to promote technology exchange, the broadening of markets, and the mobilization of resources." In order to achieve these goals, a coordination mechanism between the OAS cooperation institutions and the CIDI will be examined. This mechanism will come into force with the Managua Protocol.

The Managua Protocol was approved by the OAS General Assembly in June 1993, although it has only been ratified by Canada and Mexico, which ratified it today. That commitment establishes, among other points, Inter-American cooperation for development as the tool to anticipate crisis and strengthen democracy in the area.

The delegates also agreed to promote the immediate ratification of the Washington Protocol, which includes the eradication of poverty as a primary goal of integrated development. They reiterated that: "The goals and principles in the OAS Charter, namely the ideals of peace, democracy, respect for human rights, social justice, solidarity, and integrated development, constitute the basis of this organization."

OAS Concludes Special Session Ahead of Schedule

PA1802211694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2019 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Manuel Tello and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares today declared the adjournment of the 20th OAS special session. The meeting, which began here yesterday, was originally scheduled to close tomorrow following six plenary meetings, but the session's conclusion was unexpectedly moved forward.

During the closure announcement, information concerning an agreement entitled "Framework of Policies and Priorities for Unified Cooperation for Development" was released, which was signed by the 34 countries attending the session. There was no official explanation on why the agenda was changed, which reliable sources attributed only to a "time adjustment."

Cuba

Robaina: Breaches Open in U.S. Domestic Support of Blockade

FL2102192494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina by Roberto Cavada; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Expressions opposing the U.S. blockade of Cuba continue to take place in the United States. Yesterday, the third Friendship Caravan sponsored by Pastors for Peace got under way. Democrat Congressman Charles Rangel is drafting a bill to be introduced in the next Congress to counter the Torricelli Law.

[Begin recording] [Cavada] Minister, there is a bill against the blockade by Congressmen Charles Rangel. What is your opinion? Are you aware of what it contains, exactly?

[Robaina] Yes, we are aware. It is another way of ....[changes thought] From within U.S. society, spokesmen of that society are realizing the absurdity, unfairness, and anachronic nature of that measure which not only blockades Cuba economically, but also blockades Americans—in a country calling itself the land of liberty. Americans are blockaded in travel and investment. It seems to me that it is only fair and proper, logical and intelligent that representatives of the American people should be the ones bringing the issue to the attention of international public opinion.

The fact that congressmen like Rangel are doing this is simply another step in a road we need many others to travel. This is why we stress that there is no number one foreign policy priority other than continuing to condemn the unfairness of the blockade. This is separate from any conditions set for Cuba. It is not a question of conditions for Cuba. The blockade is unfair, independently of whatever Cuba decides to do or not to do. This is gaining support each day. It has the important support of a number of countries. The breaches being made in the blockade within the U.S. society are very interesting. [end recording]

Ministry: Blockade Damaging National Health Care System

FL2102193794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] On 21 February, the newspaper TRABAJADORES features an article by journalist Nicanor Leon Cotayo regarding the effects of the blockade on health services entitled: "If It Comes From the United States."

The article is based on the research that Nicanor Leon Cotayo has been carrying out for 15 years on the isolationist policy Washington conducts against Cuba. Leon Cotayo discusses several issues in collaboration with the Public Health Ministry, particularly the finance office. The article is especially significant now that the UN Human Rights Commission is meeting in Geneva.

Because of the blockade, in one year of this five-year period, Cuba paid an additional $45 million in health costs. Cuba could have bought 180 million liters of milk with that money. Nicanor Leon Cotayo points out that this effect of the blockade is reflected simultaneously in the increase in the foreign debt and a greater outlay of hard currency for excessive transportation costs—in most cases air transportation—in order to ensure the swift delivery of highly critical products. Despite these difficulties, the article adds, Cuba has preserved its accomplishments in this sphere regardless of Washington's systematic efforts to damage our health care system.

New U.S. Immigration Policy Part of 'Negative' Campaign

PA2002141594 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Commentary by Miguel de la Guardia from the "Commenting on the News" segment]

[Text] Many people view the recent measures taken by the U.S. Government as strange, but there are some clues to indicate the real intentions behind those actions. As of 1 October 1994, every immigrant requesting political asylum in the United States will be charged $130. A corollary to that measure is that any person requesting political asylum will not be granted a work permit in the United States for six months following the date the petition was filed.

Immigration and Naturalization Service [INS] officials report that 364,000 requests have accumulated with 10,000 new requests being received each month. The aforementioned measures are expected to help expedite processing. At this time there are only 150 people who process political asylum and residency requests, thus the decisionmaking process takes an unusually long time to complete. There are plans to hire more personnel to allow the INS to reduce the number of unprocessed requests to a normal level. That seems perfectly normal and logical.

But there are other considerations. Not all immigrants to the United States are unwanted, and political refugee status is granted to some with extraordinary ease. One example is those Cubans who dare cross the Florida channel in dilapidated sea vessels and by the most unusual and risky methods. This a politically oriented measure that is part of a crusade to wage a negative propaganda campaign against Cuba, a country that has adopted a social and political regime not to the U.S. Government's liking. The intention is to present these people as politically persecuted individuals who have escaped alleged repression in their respective countries. In those cases, after the newly arrived immigrants have made statements against their governments, political

refugee status is granted swiftly in accordance with laws and dispositions in existence since the early days of the Cuban revolution.

These Cuban immigrants are not the real targets of the recent measure to charge $130 for each political asylum request. There are mechanisms in the [word indistinct] community such as the relatives of the emigres or the counterrevolutionary organizations that can provide the money.

The real issue is that there are hundreds maybe thousands of other immigrants who claim to have been persecuted in their countries in order to take advantage of the same benefits accorded the Cubans. Among those immigrants who risk their lives to travel under pathetic conditions to the United States—also aboard fragile sea vessels—we can mention the Haitians, who flee repression and famine in their country in search of a better future in the United States. These displaced persons have two monumental stumbling blocks that prevent them from being admitted to the northern colossus. The first is that they are black, and the other is that they are extremely poor with very little education. Such traits make them unwanted in affluent North American society, where there are already too many blacks who are unemployed, destitute, and discriminated against.

It is very unlikely that a Haitian fugitive will be able to pay the $130 fee, much less be able to wait the established six month period to receive a permit that will allow them to work in the great northern country. The same can be said of the numerous Mexican and other Third World immigrants who seek to travel to the United States for economic reasons. Isn't the real intention behind the unusual tax quite clear?

More Severe Punishment for Crossing at Guantanamo Announced

FL2002202994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] Jose Raul Amaro, the president of the People's Supreme Tribunal, released details of ruling No. 104 of 1994 for Guantanamo Province, which stipulates strict sanctions against anyone attempting to leave the country illegally through the border with the Yankee base in Caimaneras. According to reporter Leonel Perez Moya, who is in Guantanamo, the president of the People's Supreme Tribunal stated that the new legislation establishes policies for the imposition of more severe sanctions, although such severity will be be effected within the framework of the law without neglecting procedural guarantees.

Amaro Salup stated that they are not trying to repress for the sake of repression but to dissuade and protect people who commit this serious crime, as well as to ensure the safety of the border guards and the integrity of national territory.

Castro Receives PAHO Official, Chilean Legislators

FL2002221994 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2030 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has received, in Havana, Dr. Jorge Allende, deputy director of the Pan-American Health Organization, PAHO, with whom he analyzed the new prospects for cooperation between PAHO and our country. The meeting agenda highlighted the close and useful collaboration [between PAHO and Cuba] and the support PAHO is giving Cuba in the establishment of an epidemiological focus in all of the national health system services.

Cuban President Fidel Castro also received the Chilean legislators from the Christian Democratic Party, Senator Carmen Frei and Deputy Eugenio Ortega, who are on a working visit to Cuba. During the talks, aspects of the relations between the two countries were discussed and the progress made in areas of common interest was noted.

Robaina, Diplomats Tour Cienfuegos Province on 18 Feb

FL1902030994 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Excerpts] As part of the tour he is making through Villa Clara Province [name of province as heard] accompanied by the diplomatic corps accredited in Cuba and representatives of the Cuban and foreign press, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina today visited the Ernesto Guevara Military Industrial Enterprise.

[Words indistinct] today took up most of the time of this second day of the tour Foreign Minister Robaina is taking in the company of a delegation made up of diplomats accredited in Cuba. This time, the effort being made in the area to effect the final stage of the coffee harvest successfully focused interest on these workers, who have today become—as Robaina said—true protagonists of Cuban foreign policy.

The first spot visited on the tour of the Cienfuegos mountain range was the Cuatro Vientos area. [passage omitted]

The visitors saw proof of these changes at [words indistinct], one of the 46 camps belonging to the Youth Labor Army and the Escambray Division, which embraces the mountain areas of Cuba's three central provinces. [passage omitted]

The last place visited was the mountain industrial complex, where various articles are produced to meet the needs of the inhabitants of these hills. [passage omitted]

Late yesterday evening, the fatigue from this intense work day did not keep the diplomatic corps and the foreign minister from meeting with some of the residents of Manicaragua Municipality, Villa Clara Province.

[passage omitted] Neither did the Don Quixote Equine Reproduction Center, deep in the Escambray Mountains, go unnoticed.

This work campaign through the interior of Cuba that the Cuban Foreign Ministry has undertaken with a large group of chiefs of diplomatic missions, a tour which has turned out to be motivating and a source of experience, ends in Cienfuegos Province tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Chinese Envoy Concludes Tour, Comments on Relations

FL1802193494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Mr. Xu Yicong, the Chinese ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Cuba, concludes his tour of Granma Province today. The tour began on 16 February in Bayamo where the diplomat visited the place where Carlos Manuel de Cespedes was born, the plazas of the revolution and the national hymn, a restaurant that specializes in Chinese food, and the house of the Cuban nationality.

On 17 February, the Chinese Ambassador toured areas of the Sierra Maestra belonging to the Bartolome Maso Municipality, where he visited the Silver Museum which served as the general headquarters for the rebellious army in 1958.

In statements to the press, Mr. Xu Yicong described the relations between China and Cuba as excellent and was optimistic on the strengthening of those ties in the future. He highlighted the frequent exchange of delegations between the two countries, the similar or identical positions in international forums, the growing trade, and the ties in education, culture, sports, and other areas.

National Waters Bilateral Treaty Signed With Jamaica

FL1902025794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] This afternoon in Kingston, Jamaica and Cuba signed a maritime border delimitation treaty establishing national waters and continental shelf borders of both countries on the basis of equidistant delimitation lines. Jamaican Foreign Minister Paul Robertson and Cuban Ambassador Dario Urra headed the two delegations and signed the new bilateral accord. Robertson stressed that the expediency and ease with which the accord was completed reflects the level of existing relations between neighboring peoples who share many common traits as developing Caribbean states.

Sao Paulo Researchers Sign Scientific Cooperation Agreement

FL1802143894 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Representatives of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation and of the Sao Paulo Foundation for Support of Research, have signed in this capital a technical-scientific cooperation agreement.

The document was signed by Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation; Roberto Rivas, director of the America Department of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation; Roberto Muller, secretary of the Sao Paulo Science, Technology, and Economic Development Department; and Jose Roberto Perez [name as heard], science director of the Brazilian institute.

For three years the two parties will contribute to promoting cooperation in all areas of science and technology. They also agreed to extend invitations to researchers and technology experts to participate in the research processes and as lecturers in scientific conferences.

Biogas Usage in Ciego de Avila Province Detailed

FL1802144094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] In 1993, more than 100 tons of fuel-oil were saved by the biogas plants in Ciego de Avila Province in response to the instructions given of taking advantage of renewable energy sources. At the closing of 1993, Ciego de Avila Province had 12 biogas units in use and it is expected that they will increase that figure as part of the generalization of an initiative that is being implemented in that province.

The biogas plants use leftovers obtained from sugar mills or cattle manure to produce methane gas which is used for cooking at work center cafeterias and homes, for lighting at dairy farms, as well as in the metallurgic industry. The largest biogas plant in Cuba was built on the island of Turiguano and it has the capacity of generating 2,000 cubic meters of methane gas per day through the process of fermenting the manure obtained from a nearby cattle ranch.

Institute Trains 'Counterintelligence,' Other Experts

FL1802140194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] The second anniversary of the founding of the Ministry of the Interior's Higher Institute was commemorated in Camaguey today with a military review. Here is correspondent Ileana Borges, linked to our national network, with the details. Ileana, good evening!

[Borges] Thank you, and good evening. The second anniversary of the founding of the Ministry of Interior's Martires de Tarara Higher Institute was celebrated with a military review and other activities at the institute in

Sierra de Cubitas Municipality in northern Camaguey. The ceremony was presided over by Julian Rizo Alvarez, member of the Politburo and first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Camaguey, and included promotions to the next grade up, (?and presentation) of the Distinguished Service honor to a group of officers, cadets, and workers.

Addressing those present, Rizo pointed out that despite the short time it has been in existence, the institute is among the best in the nation, with energetic and hard-working personnel whose work contributes to raising the level of the ministry's operative cadres in different specialized domains. Rizo also (?pointed out) the important role they play in support of agriculture, and (?exhorted) them to participate in an efficient and well-organized manner in the planting of [words indistinct] crops [words indistinct] after the coming potato harvest, which is scheduled to begin in March.

The celebration concluded with an exhibition of the young cadets' abilities, including the use by a large group of young women of several different forms of self-defense, as well as action taken by a brigade of special troops against the actions of a group of make-believe criminals.

The Martires de Tarara Institute prepares specialists in police training, counterintelligence, investigative techniques, reeducation of prisoners, and reeducation of minors. All these specialists also have law degrees. The institute has, among its students, [words indistinct] from Ciego de Avila, Las Tunas, Holguin, and Camaguey.

This is Ileana Borges Diaz of the National News Agency for Radio Rebelde's "Exclusive" program.

Raul Castro's Western Army Speech

FL1902192194 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0134 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Speech by Army General Raul Castro at a ceremony marking the beginning of the Western Army's training year in San Antonio de los Banos on 15 February—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed Comrades of the Western Army and guests. We begin the new training period of the Western Army. The Playa Giron border guard fighter plane brigade [words indistinct] and to a certain degree the important perfecting process which has taken place in the defensive structure of the western part of the country.

As many of you know, during the second semester of 1993, a group of important units of the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force [DAAFAR] and the Revolutionary Navy located in this territory became part of the Western Army, which elevated considerably the combat capacity and the responsibilities of this Army, which defends one of the most important strategic areas.

This measure, which had been previously taken by the East and Central Armies, considerably elevates the operational independence and the combat capabilities of the main commands of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR]. It was not for the purpose of symbolizing that union which motivated the selection of this site for the ceremony. Rather, it was the results of the work done by this great unit, which has gathered more than enough historic and current achievements to host this important ceremony on behalf of the combat glory [words indistinct] it joins the long trajectory of heroism in the battle together with the dedicated work of thousands of men and women.

Almost 31 years ago, on 16 April 1963, in this same spot Fidel said that we would not have an air force of weaklings or an air force of wealthy children [burguesitos] but a force of the people, the best of the people. Today we can say with pride that the path set by the commander in chief has been carried out fully. Our pilots as well as the rest of the combatants of the [words indistinct] have given a solid example of modesty and maturity with their understanding and support for the drastic reductions that were necessary in this type of a concentrated force. This was the same attitude taken by the members of the Revolutionary Navy where it was necessary to make cutbacks that correspond with the [words indistinct] in a shared manner by all our combatants and civil workers.

[Words indistinct] the past 25 December, in summarizing the good results obtained by this army during its inspection, what the last three years have been for all the armed forces in this effort and work. More than ever before, it has been an eloquent demonstration of the permanent disposition by all the members of the FAR to confront any task and of the enormous amount of intelligence that our units have. We have been capable of fulfilling the difficult challenge that being the armed forces of a country with a revolution like ours represents, remaining in harmony with the sacrifices and efforts of our people.

All of you know, that I am not likely to exaggerate achievements and much less to fall into complacency. But I can say that what we have seen, together with the officers that have accompanied us in the recent tours of the three armies, is truly impressive. Not only have we carried out a gigantic effort to put the armed forces in shape to successfully confront the current economic difficulties, and in continuing its refinement and development under these difficult conditions, but we did it without affecting the fulfillment of the FAR's missions, which can be summarized in the five main goals that we established last year.

In combat readiness, a vital aspect for the Armed Forces, all the commands exceeded the results of previous years in the elevated number of inspections that were carried out. The work that has been necessary to carry out with the technique is [words indistinct]. It is enough to

mention the millions in material conserved or reconditioned, ranging from rifles to airplanes. This task being fundamentally completed, we have instructed that this experience be employed to preserve the costly investment made by the country in agricultural machinery, construction equipment, and equipment of other branches of the economy, with the goal of continuing their use when we overcome the special period, a task in which the first steps have already been taken.

Tens of thousands of professionals, workers, and rank and file soldiers, have dedicated their talents and energy to maintain military equipment and weapons in operational, and perfect, condition. Just a few days ago, during a visit to a great unit of the DAAFAR of the Eastern Army, I recalled the ample reference to this effort made by the commander in chief during the Eighth Forum [of Science and Technology] especially what he said about the difficulties of maintaining airplanes, tanks, and the rest of the modern equipment of the armed forces in operational condition after three years of not receiving spare parts. He concluded by saying that someday history would note these heroic deeds. Neither did we forget the tasks of the military theater of operations during 1993 in which substantial progress was made, despite the limitation of resources; in the people's defense tunnels in which the year's goal was exceeded, as well as in the projects of more technical complexity.

As I have insisted on other occasions, we will continue advancing in this direction no matter the circumstances and with the available means. The agroindustrial activity directed towards self-sufficiency has been a path of permanent priority. We can already see important results in this area. As we have said on other occasions, except for sugar and salt, which would be senseless to produce, we will continue developing the production of all other foods.

We have already reached high levels of self-sufficiency in all the agricultural-livestock sectors. For example, the FAR is already self-sufficient in the production of rice in many units, as in the case of an artillery regiment of the Eastern Army that I recently visited that was 72 percent self-sufficient in 1993. It received 22 percent of its needs from the army. It only depended on the national economy for the remaining 5 percent. Like this unit, there are many other examples. We are also giving great attention to aquatic production, which we will significantly boost this year because this is an important source of animal protein [words indistinct].

All the main commands of the FAR have achieved important results in herbal remedies, which has meant a significant savings for the country in imported medicines. It has allowed us to obtain adequate health levels in our units, where herbal remedies currently make up 70 percent of the medicines that are used. In a recent visit to the Eastern Naval Base, we were able to verify that they are producing 104 of the 109 formulas. This allows them to provide substitutes for 93 percent of the industrial medicines.

That is not all. Our combatants are making an important contribution to the country's food program and seeking new ways to make the defense expenses weigh less each day on the national budget. We have the firm goal of making the armed forces weigh as little as possible on the people. In that sense, we are advancing toward the goal of self-financing. It is a difficult goal but possible to reach in a reasonable period. That is why, next year, this goal will be added to the other five we had already defined as the main goals.

An example of this was the visible progress experienced by the Youth Labor Army [EJT] whose combatants without abandoning any of the important [words indistinct] in the Turquino plan, tobacco production, and many other areas. They have taken on the responsibility of cultivating 49 percent of state lands dedicated to miscellaneous crops in Havana Province. They are working in these farms with only half of the fuel these farms had before they were taken over by the EJT.

Furthermore, they remain ready to carry out the combat missions they are assigned. They must maintain their elevated political and moral state and the satisfactory discipline that exists in our units under the complex circumstances that the country is facing.

To achieve these results it does not take an army of priviledged people, but an Army that is expressly linked to the population, with whom the combatants share their problems and difficulties. It is an important example of the FAR's firmness. Our three main commands are developing a healthy and fraternal emulation with the population. The Eastern, and Central Armies have just been challenged by the Western Army, [words indistinct] apart from all formalism, it has been an important factor in achieving these results; an essential element of the defensive power of our country. It is its combatants: the millions of prepared men and women, who are determined to take up their weapons.

This preparation will continue to be the center of our work. In 1994, we will consolidate the system of preparation of personnel which should allow us to concentrate efforts and resources in vital matters. We will continue adjusting the preparation of our officers, sergeants, regular soldiers, reserves, and the people's militiamen to our current conditions. We will continue developing the tactical thought on the basis of harmoniously combining the universal with the autochthonous. We will continue giving special attention to the living conditions of all our combatants and civilian workers, especially to the corps of officers, which carries out a decisive role as a solid pillar of [words indistinct] made up of men and women with a high level of professionalism, modesty, and dedication.

Lieutenant Ermis Brooks Chivas recently lost his leg as he rescued a group of irresponsible people who attempted to abandon the country through the perimeter that borders the Guantanamo Base. They entered a minefield. The only demand of this young man, who is

only 22 years old, was that he be allowed to remain active in the FAR as part of the heroic border brigade. Our officers are of that type. They are the inheritors of the Mambi and rebellious traditions. They are children of a people for whom heroism is an everyday occurrence.

One cannot be amazed that from a people like ours, in the past year, despite the greatest shortages and difficulties of the revolution, there was an unprecedented number of new members in the the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and the Union of Young Communists [UJC] within the country, including the armed forces.

This confirms, once again, the statement made by our commander in chief that the current moment is the most difficult one, but, at the same time, the most glorious of our history. [applause]

Deeds are demonstrating that time is on our side. To the same degree that we resist, solidarity increases as well as the number of people who, even though they do not totally agree with our ideas, are convinced that the Cuban revolution is not at the mercy of the reactionary winds and that its deep popular roots allow it to confront these winds successfully despite their strength.

We have difficulties, but we are not at a dead end. We know very well what our deficiencies are, where our problems lay, and what we have to do to overcome them. We will continue acting energetically, analyzing the pros and cons of every decision without letting ourselves be provoked, but without allowing the initiative to be taken for us in any field. The enemy must undoubtedly know that the battle with us is until death. In Cuba, they cannot dream of mass surrenders or general desertions. [applause]

As the commander in chief said in his report to the first congress of the PCC about the rebellious army, the FAR has not ceased to be the soul of the revolution. To the contrary, we have the duty of being one of its most solid pillars. To be able to maintain that position in the ranks we must preserve our monolithic unity which is based on the ideological firmness and the absolute [word indistinct], the revolution, and the commander in chief. With the visible results that you have been obtaining in all fields, for the solidarity and working spirit that we have been able to see in the large number of units that we recently visited we are sure that the combatants of the Western Army will be the vanguard [words indistinct] for our people in the great battles that are ahead of us.

On behalf of myself and the commander in chief, I congratulate you for the good results obtained in 1993 and I ratify my assurance that in 1994 those results be even greater. Long live our commander in chief! [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live our invincible revolution! [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Socialism or [pauses] [Crowd shouts: "or death"]; fatherland or death... [pauses] [Crowd shouts: "We will win!"] [applause]

Havana City Province MTT Begins Training

FL2102030694 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] The 1994 training period for the Territorial Troops Militia [MTT] began today in Havana City Province. Habana del Este Municipality attained the Defense-Ready, Phase II banner, after winning first place in the overall emulative competion last year and an assessment of good during last December's Minfar [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces] inspection. (Armando Malpica), first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in the province and president of the Municipal Defense Council, congratulated the militiamen for having contributed to Habana del Este's becoming the first municipality in the capital, and the eighth in the nation, to achieve such an important status.

During the ceremony held on the esplanade of the Villa Panamericana, a group of militiamen received the Order of Ignacio Agramonte, Grades I and III, as well as the FAR's 23 de Agosto and Distinguished Service medals.

In the closing speech, Mayor Pedro Chavez called on residents of the capital to make a special effort this year in building civil defense tunnels and preparing the theater of operations.

Granma Province Begins First Military Training Period

FL2102125994 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] The ceremony opening the first period of the military training year was held today in Granma Province. To declare Granma a Defense-Ready, Phase II province in 1995, on the 100th anniversary of the fall of Jose Marti in combat in Dos Rios, was the commitment reaffirmed on 20 February in Bayamo.

During the ceremony kicking off the first training period—which was attended by Division General Ramon Espinosa Martin, chief of the Eastern Army—Alfredo Enriquez Pina, who is a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and PCC first secretary in Granma Province, said that great efforts are being made to attain the status of Defense-Ready, Phase II:

[Begin recording] It is really very difficult; but it depends, basically, on the efforts—and the results of those efforts—that we achieve in Bayamo Municipality. [end recording]

Bayamo Municipality, which will be the site of the Eastern Army's Military Council in the next few months, delivered on its commitment to be defense ready in 1994; it received the status of complier in the preceding year.

Brigade members and militiamen were decorated at this ceremony dedicated to the 99th anniversary of the resumption of the war of independence.

Rizo Presides Over Eastern Army Training Ceremony

FL1602235794 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2224 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] The training year was begun at a large tank unit in Camaguey with a military review presided over by Julian Rizo, a Politburo member and president of the Camaguey Province Defense Council. Rizo earlier viewed an exhibit of the tank unit's means for defensive combat, communications, and production. The latter included the troops' food self-sufficiency supply capabilities, based on their own agricultural-livestock self-management.

At the ceremony, Colonel Jose Pina Perez discussed the work to be undertaken, with a view to maintaining the unit's high combat readiness. The unit has been a National Vanguard unit for (?three) consecutive years, and is a great FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] (?forward) unit.

Julian Rizo acknowledged the progress made by the unit's officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted men in achieving prestige within the Eastern Army, as well as, in this new year, the perfection of dexterity and command of the material.

PRC Ambassador Notes Strengthening Economic Ties

FL2102160494 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1503 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] During a visit to an exhibit of photographs and crafts of the PRC in Ciego de Avila, PRC Ambassador Xu Yicong pointed out that the relations with Cuba are increasing in the economic sector. The diplomat added that ties in education, sports, and technical consultation have also increased significantly and are a sign of the friendship between the peoples. Xu Yicong described the recently inaugurated exhibit as modest but representative of the feelings and warmth of the Chinese people.

Politburo member Alfredo Hondal, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Ciego de Avila Province, and other regional leaders and Chinese diplomats attended the exhibit.

Four Generators Installed in Holguin; Two in Guantanamo

FL1802162194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] The Sugar Industry Ministry has concluded the installation of four turbogenerators in four different power plants in Holguin Province, seeking to increase energy production and to contribute to the national electricity supply system. Two of these generators are already in operation while the other two are being installed at the (Tino) Naranjo and Urbano Noris mills, to fulfill a program which provides for the maximum exploitation of renewable energy sources such as sugar cane husks.

Moreover, in Guantanamo Province, two other turbogenerators are also operating in the Manuel Tames and El Salvador industrial complexes, which as of this harvest will have their own energy generators. The Manuel Tames complex is in a position to supply iteself with 70 percent of its electricity needs, while El Salvador can generate four-fifths (?of its current electricity needs).

Controls on Self-Employed Viewed

FL1802210594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Feb 94

["Straight Talk" program with host Juan Carlos Roque Garcia and guest Jose Alejandro Rodriguez of JUVENTUD REBELDE—live or recorded]

[Text] [Roque] Jose Alejandro Rodriguez, of the weekly JUVENTUD REBELDE, is here with us today to discuss the self-employment issue. As you know, this activity has prompted many different opinions on whether this activity should be allowed in this time of crisis in our country. Alejandro, your idea please.

[Rodriguez] Yes, Juan Carlos. The self-employment activity as a labor system in the country was implemented some five months ago by Decree Law 141. But like anything that breaks the routine, anything that introduces something new, the self-employment issue has prompted a major conflict in our society.

[Roque] There are many skeptics...

[Rodriguez] Yes. And there are many aspects to discuss. But I will refer only to the extreme positions. There are those who propose an unrestricted promotion of that activity, without any control whatsoever. And there are those who are very suspicious, fearful, and take this activity as a change in the social and economic projection of our social activity. But I think we must put this activity on a scale. We must take this self-employment as a new activity joining the Cuban labor system. We must take it as a feasible alternative, something that will reduce the employment problem at this time of recession, and as a possibility, an alternative way of providing services and consumable goods to the people under severe economic conditions.

[Roque] The people must understand that this is the first decree, the first measure being adopted, and that all measures have to go through several stages. The first stage is to prepare the measure and then to publish it. Then it must be implemented; the consolidation of the measure will come afterwards. This is important because consolidation cannot be achieved overnight. It is a process that takes time.

[Rodriguez] I agree. But we must also take it in a good sense, as a great prospect. We cannot take all the measures being adopted in the Cuban economy as a partial solution, as a temporary patch-up solution to current problems, but as a prospect of how our economy will be designed for the future. I think this is very important. All these measures are qualitative changes. I am one of those who are convinced of the economic and political feasibility of self- employment, although it must be submitted to rigorous control and oversight. But I am also convinced that it must be submitted to other economic control systems, to discipline the work of these individuals who are self-employed. I also think that well established and well controlled self-employment as a social discipline is a useful activity and must be defended. Besides, I think the people will appreciate this activity because in the end we will all benefit from it.

[Roque] Jose, you were just talking about the control that must be imposed on self-employed workers. Why? There are those who talk about the deviation of state resources. It is true, this deviation of resources is a common practice. But why are they deviated?

[Rodriguez] The deviation of resources must not be related to the self-employment activity. Sometimes we mistake the images of things with the things themselves: the consequences with the causes. The deviation is one problem, a weak and vulnerable side of our economy that occurs in many areas of the Cuban economy.

[Roque] Let us take this under the current situation.

[Rodriguez] Of course, deviation of resources can also take place in the self-employment area. When there is no stable state supply of products to sell, these people could be using deviated or illegal resources....

[Roque, interrupting] But we cannot stop being objective. This is real. This is taking place, and we cannot avoid it.

[Rodriquez] That is right. But what we have, we cannot.... [pauses] Since this harmful practice can be reversed, and since it can also become common practice, we cannot confront this problem in the final stage, when the man is already selling the product. I think the control problem affects all aspects of our economy; and that must be resolved at the root, at the place where the money is deviated. But it is also good to create justice, Juan Carlos. We must not be mistaken, because people often identify self- employed workers as individuals who only want to rob the people through dirty tricks, individuals who profit from the people's needs, and individuals who are deviating resources.

[Roque] That is not always true.

[Rodriguez] No. I know honest people and hard workers. And Decree 141 was made for those people, for those who want to make a living by honest work, perhaps a better living than average but a living supported by their work, by an honest and clean activity.

[Roque] However, honest work demands clear and continuous control. How can this be achieved? Is the country prepared for strict control of self-employment?

[Rodriguez] The first impression is that the country is not prepared. But this decree has been in effect for only five months. These changes are taking place in a very dynamic way; besides, this is a very decentralized activity. It will not be resolved by the state council or by any ministry. This will be solved at the level of the people's council, or at the municipal level. We already have some experience on this. There are provinces and there are regions. There are places where self-employment activity is more intense, as in Holguin, for instance. But this is the place also where it is more rigorously controlled, and where there is the greatest will to implement it because people are convinced that it is useful and is a way of solving many daily and social problems.

But the role of the people's council is decisive. The council must decide on this activity in its territory. The measures are written, but they must be fulfilled. There are also other control elements. I an certain that in times of absolute shortage, of scarcity, it is possible that some people would be helping others to sell things, to use illegal resources. But there are other aspects as well. We must look at this activity in a realistic manner. To the extent that our economy is reactivated, as production increases, there will always be the possibility that self-employed workers will gradually be supplied raw materials and provisions purchased from the state.

[Roque] What about the consolidation stage? This is an important stage. We can talk about advantages, about the negative and positive aspects of a given activity, especially when measures are adopted to solve this set of problems, and when a new activity emerges, such as the supply of staples by the self-employed.

[Rodriguez] As for the consolidation stage, obviously there are also other control measures. A new decree on violations is under discussion. This decree will cover and punish all irregularities in this area. I be ve a strong oversight body will be created. But there is another problem: economic changes and tax policy. The self-employed must now pay a minimum tax. But this tax is variable, and must be increased in accordance with the increase in their income. The income declaration is something new for us and is a way to control the self-employed.

[Roque] We are now getting to the end of our program. Can you make a final analysis of the subject we are discussing?

[Rodriguez] I simply want to stress the fact that among all the transformations taking place in the economic area, self-employment represents an alternative that supplements other activities. I think it is a useful activity and a way of seeking development. It is also an opportunity for a group of persons to develop their potentials in a decentralized, simple, and dynamic manner, to

render services and goods to the people. But this activity, to prevent abuses, must be subject to strict social discipline and control. It must be demonstrated to society that this is an honest activity, and that individual initiatives must be promoted, though in a controlled manner, observing the rules of cleanliness and of service to society.

Today I wanted to talk about the good and honest self-employed workers who seek to make a living through their honest effort, work, and initiative.

[Roque] Everything you are saying creates an economic culture, an economic culture the country needs today more than ever. But we can also say that this economic culture has not been sufficiently assimilated, not only by the people, but also by those who are in charge of leading important activities like this.

[Rrodriguez] Yes. I think we must strive for the development of this alternative, of this new activity. We hope it will grow healthy and develop well because it is also a way of providing alternatives to the people, alternative solutions to our problems, of coexisting with them without fear, because I am certain that it will not disrupt the current economic policy. It is only a necessary supplement of activities, which will make economic relations more dynamic.

[Roque] Our appreciation to Jose Alejandro Rodriguez for participating with us in this program.

Self-Employment Brings Matanzas 5.25 Million Pesos

FL1802233794 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2045 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] In Matanzas, over 8,000 people are self-employed under Decree Law No. 141; 61 percent of these are new requests. The occupations most requested to date in Matanzas Province are wagon worker and preparer of light foods—the latter of which has been temporarily suspended. Independently of the services and needs of the Matanzas market that the province's residents might meet through self-employment, the state budget also benefits, receiving income of over 0.25 million pesos for new registrations and almost 5 million pesos in taxes.

Senen Casas Praises Eastern Provinces Recovery Efforts

FL1902025094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] On 18 February, Division General Senen Casas, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, praised the progress of the people of Guantanamo Province in overcoming the damage caused by severe rains in November. Casas Regueiro heads a ministerial commission which includes the heads of the Construction and Water Resources Ministries, the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, and the construction materials industry. Their visit, which concluded at noon today, included socioeconomic projects in Guantanamo and Caimaneras Municipalities and farming areas of San Antonio del Sur Municipality.

Div. Gen. Senen Casas told reporters that the two months since the commission's last visit show significant progress in recovery efforts and demonstrate the extraordinary efforts of Guantanamo and Santiago de Cuba construction workers despite supply shortages.

Senen Casas, who is also the transportation minister, relayed kudos to the people of Guantanamo on behalf of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro; Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces; and the government for the progress they have achieved in such a short time; however, there is still much to be done. The ministerial commission oversaw the level of fulfillment of the recovery effort and the prioritized socioeconomic program undertaken following the Politburo committee's visit of April 1992.

Haiti

No Official Mandate Given To Legislators in Washington

FL1802180994 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio In French 1130 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Excerpt] The parliamentary delegation now in Washington, does not have an official mandate from the parliament. Therefore, it cannot in any way commit the institution in its consultations or in any plans or proposals for a solution to the crisis, assert the legislators from the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion, ACP, notably Senators Dejean Belizaire, Ebrane Cadet, and Thomas Eddy Dupiton. Neither can this delegation discuss the country's future, according to Senators Belizaire, Cadet, and Dupiton. Daly Valet filed a report:

[Begin recording] [Valet, in Creole] The parliamentary delegation which is holding negotiations in the United States on Haiti's political crisis, has no mandate to negotiate on behalf of the parliament. This is the position of some senators of the ACP, who indicate that the Senate never met in a formal session to give a mandate to some senators to negotiate for the purpose of making a commitment on the nation's future. Furthermore, Senator Firmin Jean-Louis is no longer the Senate's president, according to Engineer Dejean Belizaire. Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton maintains the same thing. According to him, it is on their own behalf and not on behalf of the parliament that the legislators went to discuss national politics in Washington.

[Dupiton, in Creole] I am reacting once more regarding the delegation. In the parliamentary practices that we observe here, any delegation traveling receives a mission from the assembly.

Several times, even in the case of President Sansaricq, when you asked if he traveled on an official trip, we said no, he traveled on private visit.

That means there can be no formal decisions that commit the parliament, because the assembly had no knowledge of the trip.

[In French] The entire assembly had no knowledge of the trip. The senator spoke with some other senators, telling them that he was traveling. We recognize that he is an eminent political personality who has the right to establish some political contacts during this trip abroad, some contacts that could be beneficial for the Senate and Haiti. But he will return to share that with the parliament before any deeper commitment. One should believe the same thing for the other delegations. They cannot return with a solution that commits Haitian sovereignty.

[Valet, in Creole] Ebrane Cadet, first secretary in the office of Firmin Jean-Louis office and also first secretary in that of Bernard Sansaricq, goes further in his thoughts. Along with the fact that no one was mandated to negotiate on behalf of the parliament, he adds that those talks and travels here and there will not bring any positive results for Haiti. Senator Ebrane Cadet cited as examples the failure in Cartagena, the failure of the Washington agreement, and the failure of the negotiations resulting in the Governors Island accord. The senator is very pessimistic. [passage omitted]. [end recording]

More Legislators Join Negotiating Delegation in Washington

FL1802232994 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] The Haitian delegation that has been in Washington for more than a week now has been joined by other legislators. A number of deputies from the opposition National Front for Change and Democracy, FNCD, including three former presidents of the Chamber of Deputies, have joined the delegation, which is involved in a number of new negotiations with a view to solving the political crisis.

The Haitian legislators are in Washington at the invitation of the State Department. They are Antoine Joseph, Duly Brutus, and the legislators from the FNCD—Edmond Mirold and Pierre-Canel Rindal. Two other deputies, Ernst Pedro Casseus and Antoine Medard, were due to join them.

Moreover, National Education Minister Victor Benoit and Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul are also supposed to go to Washington.

It appears that the U.S. State Department is in this way attempting to gather in Washington legislators of all leanings represented in the parliament, in order to prompt President Aristide to appoint a new prime minister.

FNCD To Make New Compromise Proposal in Washington

FL1902011194 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] The National Front for Change and Democracy, FNCD, is going to propose a political compromise to reconcile the interests of all parties involved in the [Haitian] crisis. According to party leaders, the FNCD plan, to be submitted in Washington, draws its inspiration from the Governors Island agreement and the New York pact. The FNCD proposal reportedly includes a modification of certain sequences of the plan presently being discussed in Washington.

An FNCD delegation has gone to Washington for the purpose of supporting this new proposal, the details of which were not made public.

Salinas Confirms Determination To Respond Nonviolently

PA1802150694 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1324 GMT 18 Feb 94

[From the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] On the evening of 17 February, Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis met privately with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. Upon leaving Los Pinos Presidential Residence, Manuel Camacho stated progress is being made in the right direction—toward pacification—in Chiapas. In very brief remarks, he noted that statements by the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] will be respected, because if each statement causes controversy, no progress would ever be made in the peace process. Jaime Guerrero has filed the following report.

[Guerrero] The Mexican Government has confirmed its determination to reject violence, which only causes more injustice and controls the political solution, following the outbreak of violence in Chiapas.

[Begin Salinas recording] The government of the republic will continue to favor a political solution over armed confrontation. We believe in democracy. [end recording]

[Guerrero] The liberation of General Castellanos paved the way for direct negotiations between the government and the EZLN. During a short tour of the capital, President Salinas stated these are times of peace. From his comments, one can infer that the Mexican Government is ready to negotiate with the EZLN. Negotiations will begin soon. We must understand to be able to resolve, the president explained.

[Begin Salinas recording] They all deserve respect. That is why we must and will undertake the greatest effort to understand, to talk, and to resolve the situation. We will do all we can to commit ourselves to a future of harmony and unity, which we undoubtedly share. We will do all we can to meet our promises. [end recording]

[Guerrero] The president delivered 2,000 land titles to residents of the Ixtapalapa neighborhood, where he said the conflict in Chiapas is affecting the poorest of the poor.

[Begin Salinas recording] We will seek ways to generously open the way of humanism. These are times for peace. [end recording]

The message ended shortly afterward. Salinas de Gortari stepped down from the stand into a large crowd to continue his activities, which included the inauguration of a school. He said he was proud to be the president of the republic.

Salinas Stresses Army's Support for Chiapas Peace

PA1902231694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2105 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 19 Feb (NOTIMEX)—President Carlos Salinas de Gortari stated today that the Mexican Army's support for peace has allowed progress in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict in the southeastern State of Chiapas.

"The Army, as result of its professional performance, with the lives of its members, has allowed us to progress in accomplishing something which is the desire of the entire population: a definite end to the violence, as well as peace and tranquility for Chiapas," the president's message indicated.

Salinas de Gortari's address was read by General Arturo Cardona Marino, chief of the presidential high command, during an event commemorating Army Day that took place on Military Field No. 1 located north of Mexico City.

The president highlighted the government's decision to search for a peaceful solution from the onset of the "unpredictable" Chiapas events, which represents "a test for all Mexicans. This willingness for peace has been possible because the Mexican Army performed, and performed well, during the conflict's contention and population protection phases," Salinas indicated. [passage omitted]

The dialogue between the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] and Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, is scheduled to begin this coming Monday. Camacho Solis was appointed as peace commissioner on 10 January as a result of an initiative by President Salinas de Gortari.

"By providing protection to the Chiapas civilian population, the Mexican Army and Air Force have carried out their constitutional responsibilities," the president stated. Salinas de Gortari emphasized that these two military institutions "have given evidence throughout the conflict of their discipline, unalterable commitment to the state of law, support for peace, and loyalty to Mexico."

The address also stressed the Mexican Army's contributions to the health sector, national natural disaster relief, drug trafficking, and public order threats. "On this Army Day, please receive from the president of the Republic, as commander in chief, a most extensive congratulations and, along with this, the acknowledgement, respect, and affection of the Mexican people," Salinas de Gortari stated.

The president headed the ceremony accompanied by National Defense Secretary General Antonio Riviello Bazan and Navy Secretary Admiral Luis Carlos Ruano Angulo, as well as other cabinet officials.

During the ceremony, Riviello Bazan indicated that the Armed Forces "never remember their actions, but rather the spirit and mission for which they were created," which is to serve "in order for the nation to live in peace." He highlighted that "this is the Mexican nation's Army, proud of its origins, an Army of men who are loyal, capable, honest, and convinced of the postulates ingrained in the Constitution." [passage omitted]

Guerrero Indians Do Not Plan To Revolt

PA1802201894 Paris AFP in Spanish 2123 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Acapulco, Mexico, 16 Feb (AFP)—Wednesday, the Guerrero 500 Years of Indian Resistance Council said it "will not take up arms" against the government, but it will support the rebels in Chiapas State in "a peaceful and legal manner."

Martin Equihua, leader of the Indian group, pointed out that approximately 560 representatives from Guerrero ethnic groups will begin marching toward the Mexican capital on 21 February so as to "not leave the Chiapas Indians without support." The march will begin at Chilpancingo, 210 km south of Mexico City.

He said this organization "supports" the rebellion started by the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) on 1 January, but, after meeting with Guerrero Indian communities, it agreed "not to take up arms because we are going to follow the path of a peaceful and legal organization and to more enthusiastically promote the political demands" of the rebels.

In a message that did not specify if they were requesting military or simply political support, the Zapatist rebels asked the Guerrero Council "not to leave them alone" in their fight and to take our blood as nourishment." [quotation marks as received]

In early February, journalist Raymundo Riva told the local EL FINANCIERO newspaper that there are reportedly 52 groups apt to engage in guerrilla warfare in Mexico. These groups could take up arms anytime; the probable date of an uprising reportedly would be in August just before the presidential elections.

Equihua emphasized that the Guerrero peasants will walk 11 days before reaching Mexico City and will try to meet with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to ask him to create an autonomous fund for the development of Indian peoples and to keep the official promises to meet Guerrero State's socioeconomic demands.

The Indian leader added that some 200 Nathuatlaca Indians will participate in the 21 February march, along with 150 Mixtecos, 110 Tlapenecos, and some 100 Amuzgos. These Indians live in the mountainous zones of Guerrero and will hide their faces behind balaclavas, as the EZLN rebels do.

Equihua noted that the march, for which the Council has requested support from political organizations and the 56 ethnic groups that live in the country, "has no partisan or electoral goals."

Indians Want EZLN Acknowledged Under Geneva Convention

PA1902032894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0704 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Report by Jose Torres Hernandez]

[Text] San Cristobal de las Casas (Mexico), 18 Feb (EFE)—Peasants and Indians who are members of 278 organizations in Chiapas State have asked that the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) be acknowledged as a "belligerent force" and that the mayors of 110 municipalities in the region be removed. "The acknowledgement would increase the extent of the people's participation and would foster solutions for the causes that prompted the conflict, which are the same causes that precipitated the organizations' mobilizations," Ayala Program [Plan de Ayala] Coordinator Carlos Ramos told EFE.

The EZLN took up arms in Chiapas on 1 January. It demanded that land be given to the people and stated its position against poverty and injustice. On 13 January, the Indian Organizations Council [Consejo de Organizaciones Indigenas] was established. It represents a million peasants in Chiapas, which has 3.2 million inhabitants. A document issued by the council said: "We are making public our unconditional support for the EZLN, and we are demanding that the federal government designate the EZLN as a belligerent force, because it complies with all the protocols of the Geneva Convention."

The Chiapas peasants met 15-17 February at San Cristobal de las Casas, 780 km to the southeast of Mexico City, and asked that the 1992 reforms to Article 27 of the Constitution be repealed. Article 27 was one of the pillars of the Mexican political system until it was reformed. It regulated the land ownership issue, which is one of the main demands of the peasants organized in the so-called ejidos community-held lands.

The Indian Organizations Council in Chiapas called people to hold marches in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Tapachula, and San Cristobal de las Casas—the three most important cities in the state, which borders with Guatemala—on 6 March. Members of two of the council's commissions met with Chiapas Governor Javier Lopez and San Cristobal de las Casas Bishop Samuel Ruiz on Thursday, to inform them of the decisions made at their meeting, which is the second one held during the past month.

The council's social demands include the release of 2,877 peasants and Indians who were arrested in Chiapas on charges related to the struggle for land; the withdrawal of the Mexican Army from Chiapas; and the punishment for what they considered to be "excesses committed" during the conflict. In the political sphere, the council

demanded the removal of 110 mayors, especially 21 mayors who have been charged of financial misappropriation; an undetermined number of deputies to the Chiapas State Congress; and judges and prosecutors in the Chiapas Supreme Court.

"We have increased our demands to include the removal of all mayors," Carlos Ramos stated.

After the 6 March mobilizations, the council is calling all peasant organizations in Mexico to a meeting in San Cristobal de las Casas on 13 and 14 March and to a national march in Mexico City on 10 April—the anniversary General Emiliano Zapata's death. Zapata, who was killed in 1919, has become a hero to the peasants who are fighting for land, and the Ayala Program has taken his "land and liberty" slogan as its own.

The armed conflict in Chiapas, which has been suspended since 17 January, will start a new phase on Monday. On that day, Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis will meet with the EZLN delegates to find political solutions to the situation.

Chiapas Supreme Tribunal Releases 28 Indians From Jail

PA2102150194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0829 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez (Mexico), 21 Feb (EFE)—Just 24 hours before the peace dialogue between Zapatist rebels and the Mexican Government begins today, Monday, the Chiapas Supreme Tribunal of Justice released 28 Indians who have been imprisoned for months, charged with various crimes.

The release of Indians who are "imprisoned without justification" is one of the main demands of the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN), which has been in a state of revolt since 1 January. The released Indians have not been charged with belonging to the EZLN, although the press thinks their release seeks to diminish the conflict of interests between the rebel group and the government prior to the peace dialogue.

Arturo Nazar, president of the Chiapas Supreme Tribunal of Justice, said the decision to release the prisoners—all of whom were charged with common crimes—was made after a thorough analysis of the cases. Human rights groups said the Indians were charged months ago with robbery, theft of public funds, attacking other people, damaging property, raiding homes, and extortion, even though in some cases they were not even tried. "The peasants and Indians were released according to the Law of Suspended Sentence and for having served part of their sentences, and not because of the peace dialogue," Nazar pointed out.

When the conflict first began, the Mexican Armed Forces arrested 70 alleged Zapatists and accused them of bearing firearms which are for the exclusive use of the Army, homicide, and association with criminal intent.

On 28 January, the Tribunal of Justice released 38 Zapatists following demands by the Zapatists and only one week later Congress approved an Amnesty Law for the armed groups. At that time, each one of the accused paid $330 for his release. The money came from the Auxiliary Fund for the Administration of State Justice.

There are still 32 Zapatists imprisoned at the Cerro Hueco Prison in Tuxtla Gutierrez, capital of Chiapas State, some 700 km southeast of Mexico City. They should have been released after the rebels freed former Chiapas Governor Absalon Castellanos Dominguez. The release of those 32 prisoners was requested by the rebels when they liberated Castellanos last Wednesday, but this request has not been met. Castallanos was taken hostage by the Zapatists on 2 January. He was accused of starting a repression campaign against the Indians and of promoting and supporting the "ladinos" (whites) in committing injustices against the Indians.

Around mid-January, the Mexican Congress approved an Amnesty Law for the Chiapas rebels and other groups who might rise up in arms on the condition they turn in their weapons. According to Juan Manuel Ulloa, delegate in Chiapas of the Office of the Attorney General of the republic, the 32 imprisoned Zapatists cannot receive the amnesty benefits because the EZLN General Command has not yet turned in its weapons, even though Castellanos has been released.

It is expected the Zapatists will remind Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis, in the dialogue which begins today, of the promise to release the imprisoned rebels, and that they will demand compliance, in one way or another, with the commitments agreed to before the negotiations begin.

The EZLN rose up in arms against the hunger and poverty to which 1 million Indians of the state have been subjected for years, and against the agrarian policy and repression in Chipas. During the first 12 days of the armed conflict, the EZLN waged combats with the Armed Forces that left at least 108 killed, 500 wounded, and 20,000 evicted from their communities.

Indian Group Reports 'Murder Attempts'

PA2102233294 Paris AFP in Spanish 2010 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] The Independent Front of Indian Peoples [Frente Independiente de Pueblos Indios], FIPI, reported "murder attempts" today against five Indian leaders in the southern State of Oaxaca by municipal policemen from that area.

According to a FIPI communique made public in this capital, "members of the municipal police" last Sunday attacked Indian leaders Juan Rojas, Higinio Roman, Felipe Bolanos, Ezequiel Valdez, and Paula Sanchez in front of a public office in the town of Temascal, Oaxaca, some 370 km from Mexico City.

The policemen "beat and fired high-caliber weapons" at the Indian leaders, who are members of the Directorate of the Chinanteco, Mazateco, and Cuicateco Regional Council, a branch of FIPI, the report added.

The communique continued that two Indians "were injured" by policemen Ramon Coria, Domingo Vasquez, and Enrique Lara, who is the commander of the municipal police in Temascal. These policemen were "accompanied by nine other police agents armed with machine guns, pistols, and tear gas."

According to FIPI, the attack was perpetrated "in retaliation" for the occupation of the local municipal office, which was taken over last Saturday by residents who demanded that the government reinstate the mayor and revise land expropriation cases.

The State of Oaxaca borders Chiapas, where today a dialogue began between the government and the guerrillas to end the armed conflict that started 1 January with an Indian rebellion led by the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN).

Three Parties Accept EZLN Invitation To Attend Peace Talks

PA1802171094 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 18 Feb 94

[From the "Good Morning from Mexico" newscast]

[Text] Three political parties have accepted the EZLN's [Zapatist National Liberation Army] invitation to be present at the dialogue for peace in Chiapas.

Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution], candidate, said his party will appoint a commission to attend the meeting. The Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution also agreed to attend the dialogue but ruled out that its presidential candidate, Alvaro Perez Trevino, will form part of its delegation. The Labor Party will also send representatives to Chiapas.

Luis Donaldo Colosio Murrieta, presidential candidate of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party], said in Acapulco that the party's national committee is analyzing the proposal to send delegates to the peace talks in Chiapas. He said the party supports any initiative in favor of a dialogue and a concerted political solution for peace in Chiapas. He added that the release of Absalon Castellanos and the upcoming dialogue should encourage everyone. The PRI candidate also said he hopes the Chiapas conflict will not affect the electoral process in August.

Because the National Action Party [PAN] believes that the EZLN armed movement is clandestine and uses violence, it has rejected the EZLN's invitation to attend the peace talks next week. PAN leader Carlos Castillo Peraza said his party will only accept the invitation if the EZLN abandons its clandestine nature and the use of violence and lays down its weapons. He stated that the country can be changed through the policy of peace, dialogue, and publicly assumed commitments. He urged the EZLN to abandon its violent attitude and respect the lives of peasants. He also said the Mexican Army should guarantee the human rights of the rebels.

EZLN Says They Will Not 'Beg for Charity' at Talks

PA2002194594 Paris AFP in Spanish 0451 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Report by Antonio Ortega, special envoy]

[Text] San Cristobal de Las Casas, Mexico, 19 Feb (AFP)—A rebel communique released on 19 February states that we the Zapatist guerrillas "will not go (to the dialogue with the Mexican Government) to ask for forgiveness or to beg," but to "demand what everyone has a right to: freedom, justice, and democracy."

The text of the communique, to which AFP has gained access, stressed that the delegates of the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) will not go to "beg for charity or to pick up the leftovers that fall from the full tables of the powerful" at the meeting with the commissioner for peace, to be held on 21 February.

The Zapatists said their demands are good for all Mexicans, "for us, the smallest in these lands, those without faces or history, those armed only with truth and fire, those who come from the night and the mountains."

The communique, issued on 16 February in the mountains of the southern Mexican state of Chiapas, advises that "if lies again return to the mouths of the powerful, our voice of fire will speak again (...) Right now the mouths of our rifles our quiet so we may speak the truth for all."

Commissioner Manuel Camacho and mediator Bishop Samuel Ruiz reported today that the first meeting between the government and the rebels will begin on 21 February at the cathedral in San Cristobal, but they did not disclose the topics to be discussed or the expected duration of the meeting.

The rebel message, signed by "Subcommander Marcos," stated that "our delegates, disregarding the risk to their lives, will go to the established place and will represent, with honor and truthfulness, the thoughts and hearts of the men who walk with the truth."

The rebels ended by saying that at the dialogue they will seek "to find a fair and dignified political solution to the current conflict, so "the many deaths are not in vain and so truth will return to our land."

Subcommander Marcos stated that he does not know whether he will attend the meeting with the commissioner but said that the points stated in the communique are, "in general, the position the EZLN will take at the dialogue."

EZLN Delegates Arrive for Peace Talks

PA2002234694 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2214 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, 20 Feb (DPA)—The delegates of the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) who will participate in peace talks with Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis arrived today headed by the legendary "Subcommander Marcos."

The 18 EZLN representatives arrived in three groups from the Lacandona Jungle, where the guerrillas have settled since the war began on 1 January, in vehicles supplied by the International Red Cross. "Subcommander Marcos," whose identity is unknown, arrived in the first group, made up of eight delegates, accompanied by Peace Commissioner Camacho Solis and Samuel Ruiz, bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas and mediator in the conflict. The group, which was greeted with applause and shouts from people who gathered at the main plaza in San Cristobal, arrived from the nearby town of San Andres Laraizal, 40 km west of San Cristobal.

A second group made up of seven rebels arrived from Ocosingo, some 90 km east of San Cristobal, and a third group, made up of three guerrillas, arrived shortly after noontime (local time) from Las Margaritas, 100 km south of San Cristobal.

The EZLN delegates gathered at the San Cristobal Cathedral, site of the peace talks scheduled to begin at 1100 (1700 GMT) on Monday [21 February].

"We will not turn in our weapons, definitely not. We have learned from other countries where rebels disarmed and then were repressed and exploited again," one of the rebels who arrived from Las Margaritas said.

All the delegates, including "Marcos," wore EZLN uniforms and had their faces covered with ski masks or scarves. None carried weapons.

The cathedral in San Cristobal de las Casas is protected by three "security cordons," made up of members of the International Red Cross, nongovernment human rights organizations, and unarmed policemen.

Closed-Door Talks Begin Early

PA2102142694 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1328 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Report by Jose Luis Armenta from the "Panorama" newscast]

[Text] The dialogue for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas will begin earlier than originally planned. Although the talks between the 19 EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Front] delegates headed by Subcommander Marcos and Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis will formally begin today, some meetings were held yesterday.

According to reports released yesterday and early today, three groups were formed to define negotiation mechanisms. Although the reconciliation process formally begins at 0900 [1500 GMT] today, the first phase of the meeting will be private and accredited reporters will not be allowed coverage. We do not expect to receive any information on the first direct meeting between the 19 EZLN delegates, among whom are four women, Commissioner Camacho Solis, and mediator Bishop Samuel Ruiz until midday.

The EZLN representatives have spent 18 hours inside the San Cristobal de Las Casas cathedral, which is now being called the cathedral of peace. Standing guard at the cathedral are unarmed military policemen, Red Cross volunteers, and members of nongovernment organizations. These three circles were established on Saturday, and they operate day and night with changes every four hours. Working in these circles are approximately 450 volunteers, a similar number of persons from nongovernment organizations, and approximately 500 soldiers.

Late Start for Official Talks

PA2102191194 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1803 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, 21 Feb (Notimex)—The dialogue between Manuel Camacho Solis, peace commissioner for the southeastern State of Chiapas, and 19 delegates from the Zapatist National Liberation Army began here today two hours late.

The parties began the official talks in private at 1100 (1700 GMT) at the San Cristobal cathedral under strict security measures and with the mediation of Bishop Samuel Ruiz, according to a spokesman for the bishop. Francisco Hernandez, spokesman for the diocese, added that a news conference will be held at 1800 (0000 GMT) at the cathedral, which is being guarded by military police, nongovernment organizations, as well as the Mexican and international Red Cross.

Camacho Solis, Rebel Leaders Comment

PA2102020794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0030 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Report by Victor Godinez]

[Excerpts] San Cristobal de las Casas, 20 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] delegates arrived in this capital today to participate on Monday in negotiations aimed at ending the armed conflict, which began in southeastern Mexico on 1 January. [passage omitted]

Four "neutral" security circles were established in the cathedral where the talks will be held with representatives of the military police, nongovernmental organizations, the Mexican Red Cross, and the International Red Cross. [passage omitted]

During the day the members of the EZLN will work on their agenda and work plans, Major "Moises" said shortly before entering the cathedral. "We are going to seek peace (...) we want better answers from the federal government," Lieutenant "Camilo" said in Ocosingo Municipality shortly before leaving for San Cristobal.

In three communiques published by the media on Sunday, the armed group said it would not come to this city to ask for forgiveness but to demand justice.

Shortly before departing to pick up the first group of rebels, Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation, stated in a communique that the effectiveness of the political solution "lies in a real commitment for change that will not endanger the essential principles of the nation and the state. We should emerge with new solutions for just causes here, but we should also strengthen the state of law. Only then will we have solutions and achieve lasting and democratic progress." We must respond to the demands of the armed group, but we must also respond to the demands of the communities in Chiapas who do not belong to that organization, to social groups who do not support them, and to an entire society which is hopeful but also troubled. [passage omitted] There are no deadlines to end the dialogue because "its objective is truly building peace, and therefore we are not going to make the main aspect—the political part—fail due to formalisms," Camacho Solis said.

The agenda for the talks, agreed upon through indirect negotiations, includes economic, social, and political demands, in addition to definitively ending the hostilities. The economic demands refer to the situation of the Indians in Chiapas, while the social demands refer to racism, neglect, and respect for the culture and traditions of the Indian people in Chiapas. The political demands refer to opportunities for real participation by the Indians.

Camacho Solis said on 20 February that the agenda includes economic, political, and social problems in Chiapas and no national topics. He added that national topics will be discussed, but no resolution will be issued on them. Camacho Solis had said he would allow the participation of EZLN representatives carrying weapons or wearing the ski masks that the rebel leaders usually wear. "If I must be in front of someone carrying a submachine gun or someone who prefers to wear a ski mask, I will respect his decision. If he decides to take it off, I will also respect his decision," Camacho Solis said.

He explained that representatives from the registered political parties will attend the meeting and that there will be permanent communication with the so-called Plural Group of the National Congress for Chiapas in case there is need for another government representative at the talks.

"If there is a joint conference or a joint communique at the end of the first round of talks, it would be an excellent signal that we are on the right track," Camacho Solis stressed.

Bishop Ruiz, bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas, and Camacho Solis issued a call to the people of San Cristobal to contribute to guaranteeing security during the meeting. After announcing the site of the talks at the cathedral, Ruiz asked the people to prevent any type of provocations, disturbances, partisan demonstrations, or irresponsible actions. In his homily, Ruiz said that in view of the importance of the meeting, San Cristobal and its main church will be called from now on "the city and the cathedral of peace" and urged the people to mark their homes with the sign of peace.

Discuss Agenda

PA2202025394 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Report by Jose Luis Sarmenta; from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] [Sarmenta] The first meeting between the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] delegates and Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis ended a few minutes ago at the Cathedral of San Cristobal de las Casas. They spoke to the national and international media, which has arrived here in San Cristobal de las Casas.

Bishop Samuel Ruiz pointed out that yesterday both sides basically worked on the mechanisms for the negotiation. Subcommander Marcos and Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis, in an act of friendship and great symbolism, both carried a Mexican flag to the location of their meeting with the national and international media. We must point out that we had access to the cathedral in San Cristobal de las Casas at approximately 1730 under tight security measures. All our equipment was inspected. There were numerous reporters from various parts of the country and the world.

Bishop Samuel Ruiz said that in this first meeting they basically talked about a dialogue, which has been initiated with goodwill. He said there is a high degree of communication between the sides precisely to achieve good negotiations. He said there is mutual respect. The bishop said both sides introduced themselves and translation was necessary because some representatives of the EZLN....[three-minute break in reception]

[Begin EZLN Subcommander Marcos recording in progress] ....so that the dialogue is possible. He especially praised the work done by the national mediation commissioner, Bishop Samuel Ruiz, and his team. He especially congratulated and sent greetings to the men and women of the nongovernment organizations, who are the ones who are guaranteeing the security of our leaders. Subsequently, we talked about how we would discuss the points contained in the list of demands, which the Indian

Revolutionary Clandestine Committee will present tomorrow. We talked about the problems at the national and state levels and those specifically having to do with the peasants and Indians.

Today we basically talked about the agenda for the dialogue that began today and which we hope will continue tomorrow. Members of the committee are willing to listen to the words of the federal government. We also believe the commissioner is also willing to listen to what the EZLN has to say. That is how we prepared everything to initiate the discussion scheduled to be held tomorrow. That is what we have to say to the national and international media. [end recording]

[Unidentified Radio ACIR announcer in Mexico City] That was the voice of Subcommander Marcos, who is the official spokesman of the delegates and representatives of the armed wing of the EZLN.

[Sarmenta] Subcommander Marcos said they believe Manuel Camacho Solis is willing to contribute to a fruitful dialogue.

[Announcer] Subcommander Marcos talked about the topics of the agenda that will be discussed tomorrow. I remember that in his latest statement, Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho said that in this peace dialogue they would not talk about any topic in the national agenda. There is apparently a victory for the EZLN in this dialogue.

[Sarmenta] That is true. Manuel Camacho Solis had pointed out that in this topic they would not discuss national issues, however, he pointed out that he would be willing to listen to all the concerns of the EZLN delegates. I can also report that a small kiosk was set up in front of the main altar of the cathedral. Both sides sat down at a table there. A Mexican flag was set up behind the kiosk. We must point out that the person who attracted the most attention from photographers and cameramen was undoubtedly Subcommander Marcos. The peace commissioner spoke later on. He pointed out that they have come a long way from war to politics, from weapons to dialogue.

[Begin Camacho Solis recording] I appreciate Samuel Ruiz' hospitality and the respectful behavior shown by the EZLN clandestine committee members.

You witnessed a very important event a few minutes ago. You and all the people who are sitting here owe allegiance to only one flag. We all stood up to show our respect to this national flag that unifies us all. This dialogue is being held on Mexican territory. The EZLN is an organization of Chiapas residents who are Mexican—predominantly Indian—citizens.

The key point of this negotiation is that it allows us to go from force to politics. We are going from weapons to dialogue. Words, not weapons, are talking right now. There are mutual guarantees. That is why we are here. Both parties respect each other. We are attempting to find a solution to the conflict through the political dialogue channel. This new political situation should not be reversed, not only because both parties are willing to talk but because it is the will and the demand of Mexican society. My media friends, this is what I have to report to you at present. Thank you. [end recording]

[Sarmenta] After Subcommander Marcos and Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis talked Bishop Samuel Ruiz told reporters that from now on we will probably be told ahead of time if there is to be a news conference or an interview with one of the parties at this dialogue. He said, however, that in this first meeting with the press the commissioners had expressed their points of view but reporters would not be allowed to ask questions. We were also informed that the list of EZLN demands will be revealed tomorrow, as well as Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis's reply to those demands.

[Announcer] Jose Luis, I thank you very much for this detailed report on what has just happened at the San Cristobal de las Casas Cathedral in Chiapas. This is the peace fortress where the first peace and reconciliation meeting is ending right now. It is so good to hear the EZLN members and the peace commissioner state that they will continue to discuss the topics on the agenda tomorrow because this shows that the dialogue is to continue. We, as many Mexicans, believe that while the parties in conflict sit and talk, words and not firearms, will talk.

[Sarmenta] Right. At the meeting, the fact that the dialogue started with the opportune mediation of Bishop Samuel Ruiz and that there is mutual respect between the EZLN members and the peace commissioner was underscored.

[Announcer] However, we are worried about what is happening in other areas of Chiapas State. We reported to our ACIR Radio Noticias listeners a few minutes ago that the cattlemen and people who have had to move from the area because of the conflict in Altamirano area in the Chiapas highlands....[pauses] We are worried because one of the regents of the Altamirano municipal council said the cattlemen had threatened to return tomorrow to recover their ranches—with or without permission. There are more than 101 ranches in that area. This prompts apprehension because right now that region can be compared to very dry grasslands during the hot season—any spark can set things on fire.

[Sarmenta] Yes Pepe, we have kept abreast of the events at Altamirano. Up to now, the people in the area have not suffered any type of physical pressure due to the cattlemen's threats. However, we will be attentive to this situation.

[Announcer] We will be attentive and I thank you for this report. Thank you, Jose Luis.

Defense Secretary Comments

PA2202034494 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0115 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Interview with Defense Secretary General Antonio Riviello Bazan by Ruben Alvarez; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Alvarez] Good day. We are here at the office of General Antonio Riviello Bazan, secretary of national defense, who has kindly approved of this interview with the Mexican news agency NOTIMEX. Good day, General.

[Riviello] Good day.

[Alvarez] Sir, the talks for peace and reconciliation began today in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. What is the opinion of the Mexican Army and the secretary of national defense regarding this round of negotiations?

[Riviello] In the first place, I would like to tell you that I thank you for your presence here at the National Defense Secretariat, which allows us to convey our views to Mexican society.

I would tell you that the members of the Army and Air Force support the decision of the government of the republic to continue the path of political solutions over armed confrontation. We believe this is the most appropriate way to attain peace and reconciliation in the Chiapas highlands.

[Alvarez] What are the measures that the Army will adopt regarding the troops based in the area, particularly those in the area of conflict?

[Riviello] As we have said on various occasions, since the day the president of the republic decreed the cease-fire, the troops returned to their garrisons in order to preserve the security of the towns. Since then, the troops have avoided all operating movements [movimientos operativos] that could interfere with peace negotiations.

[Alvarez] Will the conflict in Chiapas have an effect on the Mexican Army? Will it affect the Army's organization, training, or reconnaissance of potential conflict areas, for instance?

[Riviello] Our legislation is very clear in that regard. The Basic Law of the Army and Air Force establishes that to fulfill their missions these services must organize, train, and equip themselves with the requirements demanded by their missions. We have not stopped fulfilling these ordinances.

However, these circumstances have given us the opportunity to assess our deployment and concentration capacity and, of course, to train our ground and air troops [one-second break in reception] Regarding the areas of potential conflict, I can tell you and our compatriots that the security missions encompass not only Chiapas but all the national territory.

[Alvarez] Gen. Riviello, without a doubt, the Mexican Army has contributed since the beginning to create conditions for the political dialogue in Chiapas. Do you believe that the media have objectively reported the actions of the National Defense Secretariat?

[Riviello] Since the beginning of the conflict, the National Defense Secretariat has issued several communiques explaining in a specific and honest manner the information available to the public. Now, regarding the media's handling of that information, I can tell you that their reporting has been very accurate. However, they have carried out their duty from different perspectives and according to their opinions.

[Alvarez] General, Gen. Absalon Castellanos was finally released after 45 days of being held captive. Do you think that the release of Gen. Castellanos is a good start for the dialogue on peace and reconciliation?

[Riviello] I think that this event represents a step forward. [words indistinct] Castellanos had been held illegally. His release reduces the existing tension and improves the possibilities of solution through dialogue, which has been the offer of the government of the republic.

[Alvarez] If you had to summarize, how would you evaluate of the Mexican Army's performance during the Chiapas conflict?

[Riviello] I believe I addressed that in a previous question. I would like to add that the Army and Air Force prepare and train continuously to be ready to accomplish their missions. These missions include guaranteeing internal order, to which they responded efficiently to reestablish peace and guarantee the security of the inhabitants in strict compliance with the law.

[Alvarez] Allow me to ask a somewhat elaborate question now. Following the Chiapas conflict, have you considered the possibility of reinforcing our country's borders militarily? Perhaps not because of the continued speculation about foreign participation in the conflict, but because the enormous amount of information has shown that our southern border is highly vulnerable.

[Riviello] As the public knows, the relations Mexico has with its bordering neighbors are of total respect and sincere cordiality. The borders are in fact quite vulnerable, given their geographic characteristics and their length. To reinforce them militarily requires an enormous economic and human effort, which cannot really be justified by the purpose. I would like to remind you that we have always had personnel stationed along the southern border to aid in the fight against drug trafficking and ensure national security.

[Alvarez] General, has the Chiapas conflict had any kind of political effect within the Mexican Army?

[Riviello] I would say that it has allowed us to reaffirm our commitment and loyalty by placing the fulfillment of our specific duties above our personal interests for the

benefit of social peace. This implies the commitment Mexican soldiers have to serve Mexico.

[Alvarez] Finally, General Riviello, do you believe certain human rights organizations have politicized the issue or lost their objectiveness?

[Riviello] Allow me to say that these organizations are of great importance to society and therefore deserve our respect, especially those which carry out their duty objectively. Now, regarding the possibility that some have politicized their work, I would say that they would be making a serious mistake if they were to trade such a noble goal for some sort of political interest.

PRI Dissidents To Back Cardenas

PA2202044694 Paris AFP in Spanish 2225 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Mexico City, Feb 21 (AFP)—During a formal event held in Mexico City today a group of Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) dissidents decided to back Cuauhtemoc Cardenas [Party of the Democratic Revolution presidential candidate] as candidate for the presidency of the Republic, Marco Aurelio Sanchez, the spokesman of the dissident group asserted.

"We will not leave the PRI until our stay in the party is truly untenable," said the spokesman of the PRI dissident group, which is called the Progressive Democratic Current [Corriente Democratica Progresista]. Until they are expelled for breaking the party's bylaws, the PRI dissidents will try to find supporters for Cardenas within the government party, which has been in power for 64 years and whose candidate is former Social Development Secretary Luis Colosio.

Sanchez added that the dissident group has approximately 20,000 members in Mexico City and the States of Mexico, Guerrero, and Aguascalientes, among others. He said the dissidents had decided to back Cardenas "despite pressures from the PRI leaders."

The elections will be held on 21 August, and it is expected that approximately 40 million Mexicans will cast their votes.

This is the second time Cardenas has run for the presidency. The first time was in 1988, when Cardenas headed a large movement that was formed after he left the PRI, where he had headed a democratic current for several months.

Costa Rica

Figueres Opposes Economic Adjustment Program

PA2002165194 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 10 Feb 94 p 6A

[Report by Jose David Guevara M.]

[Text] If the past is any indication, the phrase "much ado about nothing" will sum up the short-term fate of the Third Economic Adjustment Program (PAE III).

The fact is that this initiative, promoted by the current administration since December 1990 and approved by the World Bank last June, will be sent to Congress on 14 February and will be buried.

That is what we gather from President-elect Jose Maria Figueres' remarks to LA NACION yesterday.

He expressed surprise over the Executive Branch's decision to send the package of state reforms to the Legislative Assembly, "because everyone knows full well that I and the National Liberation Party deputies will oppose it in its current form."

Figueres reiterated that his opposition to the program—which includes loans totalling $300 million—stems from the fact that it requires the approval of a series of laws which, in his opinion, have not been closely examined and would compromise the country.

Presidency Minister Rolando Lacle announced the night before last that the PAE III would be sent to Congress.

Social Democratic Deputy Federico Vargas supported Figueres' position, stating that "we are about to witness the burial of the PAE III."

Despite that assertion, Social Christian Legislator Gerardo Bolanos said his faction will do everything possible to pass the reform package.

President Rafael Angel Calderon hopes the same. "The PAE III is advantageous for the country," he said. Planning Minister Carlos Vargas Pagan reiterated that opinion: "What we are sending (to Congress) is what the country needs and what will allow it to become a developed nation."

Javier Sandoval, assistant director of public credit at the Finance Ministry, announced that the only thing certain about the PAE III is that as of this month the country has lost $1.43 million (almost 220 million colones) which must be paid—regardless of whether the program is approved—by way of loan commissions to the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank.

A loan commission clause is customary in contracts with international organizations. It establishes that 60 days after signing an agreement, the debtor country must pay between 0.75 and 1.25 percent on the sums it has not received.

Figueres Supports Free Trade Negotiations With Mexico

PA2002214094 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 10 Feb 94 p 4A

[Report by Jose Alberto Briceno]

[Text] Economy Minister Roberto Rojas has announced that on 8 February the government contacted Jose Maria Figueres to ask him his opinion on the free trade treaty negotiations with Mexico.

By presidential order Rojas spoke with Figueres' economic advisers in order to inform the Mexicans [of Figueres' views]. "The president-elect's position is very important to us because he has made statements to the effect that he wants to reach an agreement with the approval of the private sector, which has been our policy," Rojas said.

On 9 February Rojas met with President Calderon and assured him that he expected white smoke from the following week's talks [with Figueres' advisers]. Calderon pointed out that with Figueres' approval he will be able to guarantee his Mexican counterpart, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, that the agreement will be confirmed by the Legislative Assembly without any problem whatsoever.

The agreement has been held back by farm-related regulations, specifically those that would give Costa Rican meat, sugar, and milk access to Mexico's market of 90 million consumers.

On 11 February Luis Tellez, Mexico's Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, is expected to arrive in Costa Rica, and on 14 February Rojas will travel to Mexico City to continue the process with his counterpart, Jaime Serra Puche.

Rojas warned that agreements have already been reached on issues such as intellectual property, investments, and a well-balanced tariff package. Mexican producers will receive the same protection given to Costa Rican producers. "We are guaranteeing an active system to resolve any expropriations that may emerge." In the industrial sector, he said, there is consensus regarding the disproportional tariff system and a temporary solution has been established through the original regulations. The idea, he concluded, is to have products such as textiles accepted as if they were local raw material from the countries that signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA): United States, Mexico, and Canada.

Court Accepts U.S. Extradition Request for Cuban Citizen

PA1902193894 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1733 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] San Jose, 19 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—A San Jose court has accepted a U.S. extradition request for Cuban citizen Huber Matos, charged with allegedly defrauding the U.S. Treasury. Huber Matos, who has lived in San Jose since

January 1993, is the son of Cuban exile leader Huber Matos, owner of a San Jose radio station and head of the Independent and Democratic Cuba (CID) organization.

The extradition request, which was filed by the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica, says that Matos and Juana Mayda Perez Batista are accused of "administration irregularities" of a Miami (U.S.A.) clinic. Judicial sources said the two Cubans have been charged with using "fraudulent methods against U.S. Government agencies to charge for fictitious or unnecessary services given to patients at a medical center in Miami.

According to the records filed with the Costa Rican court, Matos faces 21 criminal counts in southern Florida for money laundering, 49 for postal fraud, 24 for charging money with false documents, and one for conspiracy and violating federal laws. Federal Judge Barry Garber issued the U.S. arrest warrant against Matos on 23 June 1993.

The Costa Rican court handling the extradition request has imposed a precautionary measure on Matos banning him from leaving the country until a decision is made on his case.

A bilateral extradition treaty between Costa Rica and the United States exists. It was suspended in January 1993 when the Constitutionality Court declared several of its articles "unconstitutional."

El Salvador

Santamaria on Possible Withholding of U.S. Aid

PA1802225094 San Salvador Radio Mayavision in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Report by Mirna Lozano; from the "Notivision" newscast]

[Text] Brian Atwood, special envoy of the U.S. Secretary of State, has said his country's economic aid to El Salvador may be made contingent upon the investigation of illegal armed groups by the Joint Group. Commenting on the matter, Presidency Minister Oscar Alfredo Santamaria said it would be a mistake on the part of the United States to restrict aid to El Salvador.

[Begin Santamaria recording] It must help other countries, but it seems to me that making this sort of assessment is a little premature. I think the United States has so much to win or lose in Latin America it will not establish conditions for certain actions that someone must carry out. I think that to continue the U.S. policy on aid or cooperation would be a grave mistake. [end recording] Santamaria said the U.S. Government must understand that the work by the Joint Group is based on confidentiality.

[Begin Santamaria recording] The reference framework stated it was an investigation based on confidentiality. The commission cannot divulge a series of breakthroughs or partial results it may have achieved at some time. Therefore, we must also look at this from that standpoint. In other words, this is not a matter of not wanting to report. Instead, the work carried out by this commission has been in some way protected so that, by withholding it from the public, they will be spared from any difficult situation. Consequently, the other thing the U.S. delegate is referring to .... [pauses] nobody can force anybody. I already said every country is sovereign. [end recording] Atwood also said the United States will continue supporting the country regardless of the government that may be elected in the next elections. For the presidency minister, the decision by the Clinton administration on the matter is part of that country's sovereignty.

Salaverria Urges UN To End Human Rights Supervision

PA2002042594 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Report by William Melendez; from the "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Miguel Angel Salaverria said today that the government continues its efforts to get the country removed from the UN permanent supervision list in connection with the human rights situation.

The foreign affairs minister believes that the situation with respect to human rights has changed substantially since signing the peace agreements, which generated a series of changes. Salaverria says that following that improvement in the protection of the right to life the government continues making efforts to be removed from the UN list.

[Begin Salaverria recording] We will not see El Salvador's removal from the list until the end of February or the beginning of March. The human rights commission meeting lasts five months. [end recording]

Salaverria admitted that there are still after effects of the war that show up as violent acts, but they are of a criminal nature. The minister says that the removal of El Salvador from the list following the observations by Pedro Nikken, independent human rights expert sent by the United Nations, is possible with the strengthening of institutions such as the Human Rights Ombudsman.

[Begin Salaverria recording] We must strengthen our own institutions. We have a human rights ombudsman; we a have human rights prosecutor. They are strengthening their offices, and they are strengthening their techniques. We hope that one day there will not be a need for international observation. [end recording]

The minister said that although results on the efforts to place the country in a new stage regarding respect for human rights are still not known, several UN member countries have expressed their support for the initiative.

First Forum on Peace Culture Inaugurated

PA1802175094 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 17 Feb 94 p 3

[Text] The first Peace Culture Forum, which brought together 14 nations that are enduring or have endured armed conflicts, was inaugurated yesterday with a call to change the mechanisms of war to those of peace to contribute toward the nations' development.

Peruvian Javier Perez de Cuellar, former UN secretary general, said during his inaugural speech that the participants' purpose in the event was "to encourage the reestablishment of good sense and equanimity needed to banish war from all corners of the world as a means of solving political and social conflicts."

Perez de Cuellar, one of the promoters of the negotiation process that concluded with the signing of the Chapultepec Agreement, said: "El Salvador has given Latin America and the world an example of the participants' political willingness to find peaceful and negotiated solutions to a conflict."

Meanwhile, Federico Mayor Zaragoza, UNESCO general director, in his video message seen by all the participants, congratulated all those who had the sense, courage, and unselfishness to achieve peace in El Salvador. Mayor said: "I want to congratulate President Cristiani, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], all those who put the force of reason before the reason of force, those pioneers of the peace culture, who are convinced that violence and conflict lead to sacrifice and the death of the causes that deserve to be lived through education, science, and culture."

Mayor expressed that the participating nations' contribution of reason and experiences to this forum shall be decisive in orienting the debate and analysis.

Upon inaugurating the Forum, President Alfredo Cristiani expressed his happiness and satisfaction that the nation had been chosen for this period of reflection.

Nevertheless, FMLN coordinator Shafik Handal said before the event's inauguration: "We believe it is not appropriate to hold this forum before the elections because it makes the government look like it is complying with the peace agreements. Handal criticized UNESCO for agreeing to organize and promote the forum before the 20 March elections, as this, he noted, gives the government party a lead.

President Cristiani in this regard said: "It is unfortunate that Handal, one of the promoters of the peace process, has expressed himself in this manner."

After the inauguration, Dr. David Escobar Galindo and current Presidency Minister Dr. Oscar Santamaria, who were members of the government commission that signed the peace agreements, each gave a lecture on "The Nature of the Peace Culture" and "The Salvadoran Case," respectively.

In addition, the Forum, where 80 nations and 140 domestic and foreign organizations assembled as observers, continues today with the topic "Local and Regional Contribution for the Installation of a Peace Culture."

Butrus-Ghali Asks Cristiani To Implement Peace Agreements

PA2002135894 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Feb 94

[From the "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has sent a message to President Alfredo Cristiani asking him to hasten the implementation of pending points of the peace agreements.

According to a UN spokesman, Butrus-Ghali informed a visiting FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] delegation yesterday in New York that he has already sent a letter to this effect to Cristiani in which he also urges the president to continue exercising his personal authority until his mandate ends with a view to fulfilling all pending points of the peace agreement.

The FMLN delegation visiting the United Nations, formed by Joaquin Villalobos, Salvador Samayoa, and Rafael Moreno, expressed concern over the delays and the failure to fulfill certain agreements concerning the formation of the National Civilian Police, the dismantlement of the former police force, the return to society of former combatants, and the transfer of lands.

The FMLN delegates also asked Butrus-Ghali to enforce the mandate of the UN Observers for El Salvador mission and reiterated their concern over delays in the issuance of electoral identification cards in areas of the country where the FMLN has its electoral base.

Joint Group Formed To Investigate Illegal Armed Groups

PA1902180594 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1501 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Feb (DPA)—The so-called "Joint Group for the Investigation of Illegal Armed Groups with Political Motivations" announced today the start of its operations at the national level as part of the process for the consolidation of peace in El Salvador.

The group, which will be responsible for investigating criminal activities committed by illegal armed groups with political motivations, better known as "death squads," announced in paid ads published in today's San Salvador newspapers that since 1 February its offices have been established and it has the necessary personnel to carry out its duties.

The previously mentioned organization was created by the Salvadoran Government with the consent of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali given the

increase in the number of "death squad-style" murders late last year, which even cost the lives of various commanders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

The joint group "invites all people and entities that may have any information or are willing to help discover illegal armed groups with political motivations to come forward so these groups can be eradicated from our country and prosecuted according to the law."

It also points out that the "confidentiality of information provided to the Joint Group for the Investigation of Illegal Armed Groups with Political Motivations is absolutely guaranteed."

The group will investigate all criminal actions attributed to illegal armed groups committed between 16 January 1992, the date on which the peace agreements were signed by the government of President Alfredo Cristiani and the FMLN, and March of the present year.

Among the members of the Joint Group are: Human Rights Ombudsman Carlos Molina; Diego Garcia Sayan, chief of the human rights division of the UN Observer Mission for El Salvador; and two Salvadoran Government representatives.

Last Thursday, while visiting El Salvador, Brian Atwood, special envoy of the U.S. State Department, said the U.S. Government has decided to provide technical and economic support to the Joint Group for the eradication of illegal armed groups with political motivations from El Salvador.

Minister on 'Delays' in Peace Agreements

PA2102195894 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1814 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Today, Monday, the Salvadoran Government denied it has lost interest in complying with the peace agreements that are pending implementation and assured that there are just some delays, which it described as "normal."

Minister of the Presidency Oscar Santamaria told the press that "this government is committed to concluding all agreements by the end of its term." He added that "naturally, some of these agreements will continue to be implemented beyond that time because these are scheduled for beyond the period of transition." He noted that there is not an impasse, but a dynamic that is appropriate to the peace process, in which there are some time difficulties, but which are normal within the complexity of the process."

The government and the former Salvadoran guerrillas signed more than 100 peace agreements on 16 January 1992 in Mexico, ending a civil war which had lasted more than 12 years and in which over 75,000 persons were killed, according to humanitarian organizations. Santamaria added that "we have not reached any crisis because we are heading in the right direction fortunately," although he admitted that "sometimes we are not on schedule, but despite problems, we are advancing."

Last week before UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], the former guerrilla organization now turned political party, claimed there were several delays in implementing some peace agreements, which are the responsibility of the government, such as rejoining civilian life and transfer of land to the former fighters. In addition, the FMLN thinks the complete development of the new National Civilian Police (PNC) and the definite dismantling of the current National Police (PN), which has a military structure, is another delay in the peace agreements.

For his part, Ghali told the FMLN in New York that he sent President Alfredo Cristiani a letter asking him to accelerate the implementation of the issues pending from the peace agreement. Santamaria insisted that "we are doing this with our best political will, and we are not going to back out in any way from our commitment." He also accused the FMLN of not surrendering all of its weapons yet. Santamaria said the Ghali's letter is "welcome," and he affirmed that "the government does not see anything negative in it. On the contrary, it reminds us that we have agreements pending so that we will not lose the impetus we are giving the entire implementation."

Santamaria said FMLN representatives went to the United Nations not because of an alleged crisis in the agreements, but because they wanted to talk with Ghali about the future of the peace process following the change of government after the 20 March general elections. The official added that the government has met with the UN Observers for El Salvador (Onusal) to coordinate the implementation of the peace agreements, mainly those related to the former guerrillas rejoining civilian life and the deployment of the PNC.

Santamaria made these statements after presiding at the graduation ceremony of a new group of PNC officers who will be sent to enforce security in various parts of the country where there are delegations of the new police corps created by the peace agreements.

Grenade, Tear Gas Attacks Called Election Sabotage

PA2102170394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1626 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The National Police (PN) reported today that one elderly woman was killed and seven people were injured in an attack against the Central Mortgage Bank (BCH) in downtown San Salvador. A PN spokesman explained to NOTIMEX that last night unidentified individuals threw a fragmentation grenade near the BCH and the national library without causing much property damage.

The PN says that the victims were passing the area when the explosive was thrown. Authorities identified the

elderly woman as Agripina Azucena Rivera de Rada, 61. The injured were taken to the local hospital where they were given immediate medical attention. According to the medical report, they are out of danger.

The PN also reported that yesterday another group of unidentified individuals threw tear gas bombs into a San Salvador municipal registry office. Political observers called this the first act of sabotage to the electoral process. The two attacks took place 30 days prior to the general elections in which 2.7 million Salvadorans will elect a president, a vice president, deputies, and aldermen.

PDC Candidate Chavez Mena Interview

PA2102223094 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 17 Feb 94 p 8

[Interview with Christian Democratic Party Presidential Candidate Fidel Chavez Mena by an unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] [Reporter] What are the PDC's [Christian Democratic Party] economic proposals within a market economy?

[Chavez Mena] We propose establishing conditions for creating an integrated economy with strong sustained growth, through a model of social market economy, characterized by combining three areas: free initiative or free competition, social development, and citizen participation. We want to create a social market economy that combines these three factors.

Three areas are important to us. We include investing in the people in the first area. We propose four priority programs in this area: education, health, potable water, and the ecology.

The second area attempts to broaden the business base. It strengthens current entrepreneurs and encourages new ones so as to broaden the base. To this end, there are four priority sector policies. First, encourage cattle raising and agricultural production levels; second, medium-, small-, and mini-sized entrepreneurs should be supported with fair policies; third, there would be a policy for professionals; fourth, the state should encourage better academic preparation through the supervision of university training.

The third idea is to incorporate women into the production sector. There is a special emphasis on low-income women and peasant women. Women are the head of the household in 63 percent of Salvadoran homes, only 33 percent of homes are maintained by a couple, and 1 percent are homes where just the man works. Our policy is to incorporate women into production activities, creating entrepreneurial agents and even banks for women. This strengthens the small and the medium-size entrepreneur and creates women agents.

[Reporter] The government says it has a social market economy. What is the actual difference from your social market economy? What measures would the PDC implement?

[Chavez Mena] To our way of thinking, the difference is that the government has seemingly encouraged a structural adjustment program to reach greater economic stability levels, which was important and has yielded good macroeconomic results. I do not question the macroeconomic figures.

The structurural adjustment program was applied to resolve a problem at the time; however, it is not true that the government set down the bases for a social market economy model, it was more like an adjustment program that may or may not be done within a social market economy program.

[Reporter] What is the problem then?

[Chavez Mena] Rather than a production economy, a more speculative and financial economy was encouraged. To our way of thinking, we should maintain all macroeconomic policies that have created certain levels of economic stability. It is not a question of destroying what works. What is needed is to implement extensive sector policies.

Exporters of agricultural and other products have complained of an absence of sector policies; there really were no policies intended to encourage agricultural and cattle raising sector activities. The topic of updating industries, which we feel is part of the Central American integration, was not included either.

The presidents made a lot of headway in political accords and have laid down important principles for the integration process, but this should be coordinated with macroeconomic policies. For example, basic grains: There cannot be complete freedom of trade between Central American countries if all macroeconomic politics are not coordinated. The EEC's toughest problem was to solve the agricultural sectors' problems.

It is true the government achieved certain levels of stabilization; what we need today is to encourage the country's production. We propose creating new entrepreneurs through credits with FIGAPE [expansion unknown] or Fedecredito [expansion unknown]. We plan on opening new banks and allowing these facilities to compete. It is important to allow foreign banks to open but within a regulated framework. If we are going to open trade, we need a very aggressive policy so our industrialists can begin to improve.

Another difference is the need to increase remittances [remesas]. Here we have an extraodinary amount that covers the $1.4 billion trade deficit. These remittances must be used appropriately. How? By offering homes, for example.

Production activities must be encouraged, which for one reason or another this administration did not do.

[Reporter] Where will the funds come from?

[Chavez Mena] To implement this program we have drafted a budget to cover 1994-99.

To this avail we have taken into account several resources. First of all, we have taken into account fiscal income, which does not require additional taxes. I believe that a lot of headway has been made because the tax system has been streamlined. Secondly, we have taken into account family remittances over the next five years. A third source of revenue is international cooperation. The country is going to need loans, donations, and honestly speaking hefty international cooperation.

[Reporter] Taking into account the delays in project approvals, especially at the ECC and international organization level, are there projects that have already been approved?

[Chavez Mena] There are some. From the [Jose Napoleon] Duarte administration there were between $1.2 to 1.3 billion left in projects, such as overpasses, repairs to the North Junction Road, and the continuation of the road toward eastern El Salvador.

The projects will take approximately 20 months from the time the requests are presented and the contracts are signed to when the plans are drafted and construction is undertaken. We are taking this into account plus the existing volume. Thus, a very aggressive foreign policy is needed to gain access to the difference in funds required.

[Reporter] As part of this aggressive foreign policy, do you have at this moment any general idea, for example, on reducing the number of embassies and consulates, or obtaining the necessary funds to send more qualified personnel abroad? Has anyone thought of sending businessmen or economists to get more aid?

[Chavez Mena] Foreign policy must have a strong economic content. During the years I was foreign minister, there was greater emphasis on the political side as opposed to the economic side. This was due to the war situation. We intend to take advantage of all our consular and embassy infrastructure to promote our exports and to use that infrastructure more as a commercial agent for exporters.

[Reporter] If you have an economic plan based on a market economy already designed to be put into effect in case you are elected, what was last week's "emergency" [emergente] proposal?

[Chavez Mena] We consider that there are several problems that are urgent, which demand extraordinary measures. We believe a plan to control crime is needed. With such a high level of insecurity, the problem of encouraging economic activity and investment, especially foreign investment, becomes even greater.

Likewise, we need to freeze basic food basket prices. Supply is too low and the market is distorted. When the imbalance is so great the idea is to halt somewhat the demand during six months to stimulate all participants in the production chain, especially in the cattle raising and agriculture sector and in the small and medium sized businesses.

What we propose, immediately after we take office, is to call on producers and union leaders to establish a social pact, much like in Mexico, which also worked in Bolivia, and not freeze basic food basket prices by decree.

Guatemala

Minister Resigns, Military Appointments Noted

PA1802223594 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Report by Willy Melgar; from the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] President Ramiro de Leon Carpio has accepted Government Minister Arnoldo Ortiz Moscoso's resignation, which was tendered yesterday. General Marco Antonio Gonzalez Taracena today assumed office as chief of staff of defense. He replaces Gen. Jose Luis Quilo Ayuzo. Gen. Carlos Enrique Pineda Carranza has assumed office as deputy chief of staff of defense. Arnoldo Balconi Turcios has assumed office as army inspector general. The appointment of a replacement for the government minister is being studied.

In addition, the president announced the appointment of a special commission to investigate the assassination of Jorge Carpio Nicolle. The commission will be made up of representatives of the Government and Defense Ministries, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, and the Archdiocese's Human Rights Office.

De Leon Orders Investigation of Death Caused by Strike

PA1902005194 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 18 Feb 94

[From the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] President Ramiro de Leon Carpio has reported that he instructed judicial authorities to take severe legal action against Roosevelt Hospital employees and officials whose irresponsibility has cost at least one person her life.

[Begin de Leon recording] This unfortunate incident has happened because of the state workers' irresponsibility. Instead of meeting with the economic cabinet at the Finance Ministry and talking to try to find a creative solution, they want an unrealistic solution by demanding salary raises. It is their fault.

There are only two ways of meeting their demands. One would be to start operating the little machine and print unsupported currency. Such an action would be irresponsible because, by meeting the demands of a minority, 100,000 or 150,000 public employees, the

economy of 10 million Guatemalans would be jeopardized. This I cannot and should not do. The other solution would be to transfer investment resources from other sources. For the first time we will invest 28 percent of the investment budget in drinking water systems, health, and education. Diverting money from the health and education sectors to raise salaries would be an irresponsible decision. I could not, should not, and will not do this.

Instead of playing around with the Guatemalan people's lives—there is already one victim, and one human life is worth as much as 10, 20, 100, or 1,000 lives—they should be seated and talk as representatives of Guatemalan state workers are doing today. I understand that a meeting is in progress and a general assembly will be held tomorrow to continue these talks. I regret deeply that their position has already cost a person her life. By looking after their particular interests only, they are violating the Guatemalan people's rights.

Of course, I have issued instructions to conduct an investigation and ordered the Attorney General's Office to take drastic measures against these persons, who are responsible as individuals and as members of the institutions. They must be punished according to the law. We are dealing with human lives. As president of the Republic, I must act accordingly, regardless of whether it is only one life or more and no matter to which social level this person belonged. She was a Guatemalan woman who lost her life because she was neglected, because the workers only looked after their own private interests, workers whose duty it was to look after her. These workers are being paid a salary to attend to the population. This is an outrage, which falls in the category of crime. [end recording]

Public Workers Strike for Wage Increase

PA1902030694 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1426 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Approximately 160,000 public workers today went on a 24-hour strike in view of President Ramiro de Leon Carpio' refusal to grant a 40 percent salary readjustment.

The president has, for the time being, ruled out declaring a "state of emergency" to halt the public workers' stoppage, which affects mostly education and health sectors due to the strike of some 12,000 teachers and 32,000 health sector workers, including 9,000 doctors.

De Leon, who ordered that workers who join the strike be reported, ruled out fears by the Catholic Church that the strike may destabilize his government and for the time being did not accept a mediation offer by Archbishop Propsepero Penados del Barrio to seek a solution to the crisis. "It is not necessary because we are open to negotiations," the president underscored and asked that the full weight of the law fall on those doctors who may turn out to be responsible for the death of a woman for alleged lack of medical attention. The case was reported to the Attorney General's Office.

Penados has stated that the workers' demands are "fair," even though he regrets it is affecting the poorest people.

The National Federation of Public Employees Unions (FENASEP), which has about 40,000 members who do not support the strike, on Thursday began talks with the government to put forth their demands.

In view of the general strike called by the National Federation of State Workers Unions (FENASTEG) and the State Workers United Instance [Instancia Unitaria de Trabajadores del Estado—UITE], the president ratified that he will not grant any salary increases. "It is impossible that in order to grant an increase to about 150,000 workers we will harm 10 million inhabitants," the president emphasized and explained that to give in to the demands of the workers means printing money without backing or investing funds, earmarked for social development programs, in operating expenses. De Leon reiterated that workers who are on strike will not be paid in full.

Despite the president's warnings, UITE leader Nery Hernandez told ACAN-EFE that they will not give up holding a national strike, which is not only to demand a readjustment, but also so that the government suspends the privatization process. Hernadez described as "regrettable" the position FENASEP has taken by not supporting the workers' movement, which according to him, includes Guatemala's 22 departments. "We are reaching a social and economic disaster due to government negligence," the union leader said.

Meanwhile, FENASTEG Secretary General Armando Sanchez also told ACAN-EFE that with the exception of the municipalities, the Finance [Ministry], the Judicial Branch, and the Labor and Social Security Ministry, the remaining government offices back the strike. Sanchez described the president's stance of not agreeing to the increase as "intransigent" and warned that they will not back down on their demands.

Labor and Social Security Minister Anabela Morfin also reiterated that her office will continue to open file cases on workers who go on strike to ensure that they are punished because "we cannot allow services to be affected."

De Leon on Talks With Rebels, Economic Goals

PA1902023894 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Speech by Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio to business leaders; place and date not given; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[Text] ...from the strategic point of view of the Presidency, it has not been a topic that has had any emphasis in my government. It has not been a topic in which I

have blindly been determined to sign the peace agreement as my predecessor unfortunately did. We do not want to give false expectations to the population and encourage the guerrillas. That is what we did in the past. I believe international positions support us, and the government's peace plan is very clear in its objectives, especially in the development of the process. It is not that we are not in a hurry but, rather, we are not going to play to the tune of the guerrillas, who want to stand out before the international community. We believe, however, that the current conditions, especially the unfortunate situation in Mexico, have come to absolutely favor the situation in Guatemala.

I am going to travel to Mexico, possibly next month, because I have received an invitation from President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. I am taking advantage of this opportunity to tell you that I expect all the support and cooperation from you because we are going to [words indistinct]. In terms of economic issues, I expect to bring a delegation that is totally prepared to negotiate. Therefore, I expect support from you to enable us to take a delegation that can negotiate and prepare the economic future of this country with Mexico. The other goal is political. Within this general goal we would like to talk about the subversives in Mexico through the [words indistinct] and the signature of the peace agreements, at least the conclusion of the armed confrontation.

I am taking advantage of the fact that the most important goal is not the conclusion of the armed confrontation but the fight against poverty and the need to provide solutions to economic and social demands. We have to provide solutions now, at this time, as we are doing now through our participation and through decentralization, not only by providing potable water and electricity but by bringing hope because the people have lost hope. This is why I have begun visiting the poorest and most remote regions of the country. The president and the government has to give hope to the country's productive sectors. They must know that there is hope. Otherwise, we could face the problems faced by Mexico, such as poverty and extreme poverty. The demands made by the subversives and the groups in southern Mexico should be resolved before it is too late.

I was telling you about how the government will conduct its activities. But before this, I forgot to mention the other objective, which is that of reconciliation and the fostering of peace here in Guatemala. I have said it often in the interior of the Republic. We are the only ones who can revolutionize Guatemala, but it will be a moral and peaceful revolution. Those who have remained here and those who have suffered the effects of violence, poverty, extreme poverty, lack of security, and its consequences have to work for a reconciliation, the reconstruction of Guatemala, and the engendering of peace. This is what I told you—that we are determined to work for a national peace plan as part of a process—a process we hope can be completed as soon as possible from a humanitarian point of view. Nevertheless, from a strategic point of view, we are in no hurry if it is to become an advantage for the subversives. I told you that the five points I have mentioned will be to consolidate democracy and the state of law, fight poverty, increase production, protect the environment, and institutionalize modernization through austerity, honesty, and social participation.

As for the first topic—the consolidation of democracy and the state of law—I can mention the modernization of institutions, freedom of speech, free elections, balance of powers, and the subordination of the Armed Forces to civilian rule. These are things we can plainly mention. I say these things in front of the Armed Forces, in front of the Guatemalan Army. It is something that is understood, because there is a clear concept that this is most advisable for the Army. [words indistinct] for that institution and, therefore, for the government and the Guatemalan nation. That is why we speak about the subordination of the military to civilian rule, which is a slow process, but a process that has already begun.

As for the fight against poverty, it includes access to opportunities, the participation of the poor in social life, the participation of the poor in political life, improvement of markets, prevention of the creation of monopolies, protection for workers, consumer protection, and better organization of businesses. As for the preservation of the environment, we are going to combine environmental policies with technology and use resources to decrease poverty. As for modernization, we are going to improve the state's management capabilities, and we are going to work for efficient macroeconomic management, encouragement of private investment, promotion of foreign investment, and the country's advance into international markets.

I will not go into detail because I would be speaking for too long. Nevertheless, I would like to give a few examples. For instance, in the field of government social policies, the improvement of the government's working capacity, the decentralization of public services, and the strengthening of local governments will be priority concerns. The management of hospitals by a board of trustees is a fact. This is a decision made by this government. The state does not have enough funds to efficiently run hospitals. Hospitals are poorly run and there is corruption in the handling of hospitals. The solution is to have a board of trustees run hospitals and oversee privatizations. As for privatizations, fortunately this government has no problems in preventing monopolies. Privatizations are needed to make government enterprises more efficient. It is a way to reduce the state's debt. This is how I see it.

Army Preparing To Participate in UN Peacekeeping Efforts

PA1902024094 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 17 Feb 94 p 2

[Text] Defense Minister General Mario Rene Enriquez yesterday confirmed that some 250 Guatemalan Army soldiers are getting ready to participate in joint peacekeeping missions with UN military forces. At an official

ceremony, the high-ranking military official disclosed that Julio Martinni, Guatemalan ambassador to the United Nations, made two requests in which he asked that Guatemala be allowed to join UN forces that provide social and defensive support to countries facing armed conflicts.

Enriquez said the Army is preparing four platoons comprising military policemen, civil affairs specialists, experts in psychological operations, nurses, and other specialists who will be able to join the UN peacekeeping forces at any time. He added that the military forces are currently capable of meeting the requirement of providing soldiers but that they are not capable of creating a logistical battalion in Guatemala, as requested, because of a lack of economic resources.

Minister Enriquez explained that those Guatemalans who will participate in the peacekeeping forces will remain on reserve or on waiting lists, beginning in March, enabling them to be ready whenever their help is needed. He added that this is the first time the Army will be taking part in such activities.

De Leon Justifies Presence of U.S. Troops

PA1902025994 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0145 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio today justified the presence of the U.S. troops on Guatemalan territory that are participating in the Fuertes Caminos program.

The president justified the presence of 200 American soldiers who represent 10 percent of the total contingent that will be arriving in the Central American nation this year to participate in social welfare projects. De Leon regretted the involvement of Rigoberta Menchu, a Guatemalan Indian and 1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner, who sent a letter to President William Clinton urging him to reconsider the "current U.S. military policy toward Guatemala."

At a meeting with the press the president explained that joint projects are being carried out with the U.S. Government to improve the standard of living of residents in Salama, Baja Verapaz, which is located 150 km north of Guatemala City.

Nevertheless, Menchu pointed out that the presence of U.S. troops in Guatemala "is unacceptable," especially when one considers that the United States is a member of the Group of Friendly Countries and "must demonstrate neutrality at all times." Furthermore, it "complicates our reality and considerably hinders the process of demilitarizing Guatemala and its society."

The U.S. Embassy in Guatemala has announced that from 6 January through the beginning of June 1994, 10 groups of 200 men each will be sent to Guatemala for training. For the Fuertes Caminos program the troops will use 150 vehicles including tractors, semi-trailers, trucks, bulldozers, perforation equipment, and jeeps for personnel transportation, as well as two helicopters for emergency medical evacuations.

De Leon Carpio expressed surprise over Menchu's position, saying that "she lacks the information" to oppose the Fuertes Caminos project, the purpose of which is to increase the well-being of the inhabitants of Salama, Baja Verapaz.

Bomb Explodes in Front of Journalist's Home

PA1902145294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0525 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Feb (Notimex)—Today at 2300, a powerful bomb exploded in front of the home of journalist Hector Barrera, located at 6-73 San Juan Road and 48th Avenue, Guatemala City.

Jose Ramon Najera, spokesperson for the volunteer firemen, said the bomb damaged several homes, but there were no victims.

Barrera works as a free-lance reporter for several Latin American and European papers.

The bombing occurred one day after the Catholic Church revealed there is a outburst of violence in Guatemala, and President Ramiro de Leon Carpio has announced drastic measures to fight the violence.

Two Firemen Killed, Others Injured in Grenade Attack

PA2002162294 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1538 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—At least two firemen were killed and five other people injured when a grenade exploded at a fire station in San Lucas Sacatepequez near Guatemala City.

The Volunteer Firemen's press office told ACAN-EFE that the device was thrown inside the station yesterday by unidentified men and exploded in the hands of Noe Morales De la Rosa.

De la Rosa and Boris Manfredo Bonilla were killed on the spot. Victor Rolando Aguilar Castro, Byron Cisneros Camey, and three members of the Guatemalan Scout Association (Alba Ramirez, Emili Rodriguez and Miriam Rodriguez) were injured.

The Volunteer Firemen are demanding that the authorities investigate the attack and that its perpetrators be punished.

De Leon Says National Agreement Successful

PA2102043094 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 17 Feb 94 p 2

[Report by Juan Carlos Ruiz Calderon]

[Text] President Ramiro de Leon Carpio yesterday said the first phase of the Great National Agreement (GAN), which deals with bringing together the first sectors to discuss the proposal, has been successful, given the positive response.

He highlighted the fact that "the organized private sector, the government workers, and the cooperative organizations have shown great will to collaborate. This forecasts a positive response from the other sectors of the community and, in general, demonstrates the achievements this government initiative has made."

Despite the president's optimism, however, the Labor and Popular Action Union, UASP, conditioned its participation in the GAN talks to several points brought onto the scene by the Executive Branch and asked for an open agenda. The private sector says that dealing with social and economic issues at the same time is an obstacle to the talks.

De Leon said that he will meet with members of CACIF [Coordinating Committee for Agriculture, Commercial, Financial and Industrial Associations] on Friday [18 February]. He will meet with cooperative organizations next week. He already has a positive response from various sectors. The president added that he has "not been able to hear the other sector's proposals because of the strike in which they are engaged. This does not mean there has not been a generally positive response."

The president concluded by expressing optimism. He believes the country will attain the goal of governability, which will allow us to set the foundation for social structure changes later on, "which is why the government will sign the agreements and abide by them."

Honduras

Reina Says Foreign Troops No Longer Needed

PA1802211394 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1902 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 18 Feb (DPA)—The presence of foreign troops in Honduras for military purposes "no longer makes any sense" now that the Cold War is over, says Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina Idiaquez.

The president said this in reference to the existence in Honduras of the U.S. military base at Palmerola in the central Department of Comayagua, approximately 80 km from Tegucigalpa.

The air force base was installed at the beginning of the eighties and was used by the United States to support the Nicaraguan contras who were fighting against the Sandinist government and the Salvadoran Government which was fighting against the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

At present the U.S. Government is still conducting operations at the base with 1,200 troops, and the base also houses the Honduran Military Aviation Academy.

Reina Idiaquez said he is examining the existence of the Palmerola base from "another context" and hinted that he would like the antinarcotics forces to be more active.

Honduras has proposed to Washington that it convert Palmerola into the Central American headquarters of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). The United States already has two radars with which it monitors the flights and boats of South American drug traffickers who take advantage of the extensive aerial and maritime space of the Honduran Atlantic.

The Honduran president made the comment after a meeting today at the Government House with activists from the ruling Liberal Party when one of the participants asked him why he does not charge for the presence of foreign troops and use the money to amortize Honduras' foreign debt.

Nicaragua

Gen Ortega: No Deadline Set for Disarmament

PA1802174394 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Feb 94 p 12

[Report by Jorge Katin]

[Text] General Humberto Ortega, chief of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS), said yesterday that no deadlines are being imposed on the 3-80 Northern Front for the disarmament of its members.

"We are not putting them against the wall or imposing deadlines, but we hope it does not take too long because everything could fall apart," General Ortega said in a conciliatory tone after turning over a former military installation to the Nicaraguan Ecologist Brigades.

Ortega said, however, that the disarmament process of the rebels from the 3-80 Northern Front could begin in the next few days.

The 3-80 Northern Front staff sent the government a list with 10 demands, including "the post of police chief in Jinotega and Nueva Segovia Departments, as well as in the Municipalities of Quilali, Jicaro, Murra, San Juan de Rio Coco, Yali, Pantasma, Ciudad Antigua, Concordia, San Rafael del Norte, Cua, Mancotal, and Bocay."

According to the rebel leader's letter, the Army could continue to keep garrisons of up to 60 men in those municipalities, except Quilali.

No One Has Been Defeated

The rebel leader Chacal also demands that the EPS return to its barracks and a subsequent demilitarization of northern Nicaragua.

The list of demands is signed by Esteban, Piloto, Franklin, Musun, Chele Gringo, and Rafael. The document also includes the creation of new settlements for development in Quilali and road repairs in the area.

The EPS chief said that once the rebel groups have disarmed, the only remaining troublesome groups will be the criminal bands, therefore there will be no reason to have EPS combat units in the area.

"We are willing to decrease the Army's military presence as long as they return to civilian life," Ortega said.

The EPS chief said: "Just as I told Talavera—Chacal—in the letter I sent him, no one is being defeated here. They will be returning to civilian life with dignity, and Nicaragua will be the winner."

According to Ortega, total peace will only be achieved by resolving the economic and social crisis. "If unemployment and poverty continue, peace will remain threatened," the military chief said.

Meeting Next Monday

A meeting between the chiefs of staff and the government, in which Colonel Javier Carrion, second in command of the EPS, could participate, will be held next Monday in Ciudad Antigua, a government source told BARRICADA.

As for the controversial Military Organization Law, the Army chief said the draft bill is almost finished and will soon be turned over to the government for review.

3-80 Northern Front Delivers Counterproposal

PA1802220294 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Feb 94 pp 1,14

[Article by Roberto Orozco]

[Text] The government received today at 1100 the 3-80 Northern Front's (FN-380] counterproposal delivered yesterday to the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification]-OAS following a meeting held in El Rosario, a hamlet located two hours from military positions held by Sandinist People's Army [EPS] special forces.

Sergio Caramagna, head CIAV-OAS official in charge of delivering the 3-80 Northern Front's counterproposal, which primarily consists of demands for the rearmed group's security and the withdrawal of EPS forces in the conflict areas as conditions for holding another meeting with the government authorities.

A few days ago the government ordered the EPS to halt operations—a cease-fire—as a sign of political willingness to initiate talks with the 3-80 Northern Front. In addition, the government's peace proposal explicitly stated that a political negotiation with the rearmed group is unacceptable.

Despite the presence of EPS special troops in the Quebrada Negra and El Mapa areas, 10 km northeast of El Rosario, Commander Esteban, [Salvador Talavera Alaniz] second in command of the 3-80 Northern Front, deemed "very positive" this first encounter at the health center.

Nevertheless, "the EPS is setting up a military cordon that endangers future talks," Esteban noted after reporting that this is why Commander El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera], the 3-80 Northern Front's main leader, was not present at the meeting, which was attended by Commanders Piloto, Chele Gringo, and Musun.

Caramanga delivered to Esteban a letter from General Humberto Ortega addressed to El Chacal. The letter proposed to the 3-80 Northern Front an "earnest meeting" between this rebel group and a broad sector of the government.

EPS delegates also participated in the meeting, sitting down to talk to an armed group for the first time since the demobilization of the Nicaraguan Resistance.

Esteban told LA PRENSA that Gen. Ortega's letter "was looked upon favorably," and that El Chacal will respond with a personal message in a few days.

Caramanga today will attempt to set up a new meeting with the 3-80 Northern Front. Yesterday at El Rosario he said that the CIAV-OAS had fulfilled its objective by delivering Gen. Ortega's to the 3-80 Northern Front.

On the presence of EPS special troops, Caramagna said that the CIAV-OAS was investigating to verify the activity of those troops.

Caramagna did not want to go into detail about the demands contained in the rebels' counterproposal.

Gen Ortega Urges Rebel Leader To Disarm

PA1902010194 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Letter from Army General Humberto Ortega Saavedra to 3-80 Northern Front leader Jose Angel Talavera, a.k.a. El Chacal; place and date not given; from the "This Morning" newscast]

[Text] Mr. Jose Angel Talavera:

The socioeconomic woes you say prompted all of you to take up arms will not be resolved by following a bloody path, because instead of creating the necessary conditions to overcome the dire poverty our peasants live in, fighting will worsen the situation because of the mourning, hatred, and pain that every war triggers.

There are more convincing and effective means, if they are well-organized with the definite support of the peasants, to demand and defend the rights that we all have as Nicaraguans. I, as well as those around me, will never allow you to be neglected or ignored once you disarm, as

is the case with former Army members and with former Nicaraguan resistance members.

The stability we are all striving for must not solely benefit the traditionally powerful and wealthy people from the countryside and the city. Instead, it must basically benefit the workers who, along with the heroic Nicaraguan peasants, constitute the essential foundation of the Nicaraguan nation's life.

On behalf of the General Staff and the Military Council of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army], I guarantee respect for and protection of the lives and assets of all those who disarm immediately to rejoin the country's everyday life. We will support the mechanisms agreed upon with you in order that you will feel truly certain that the personal safety of each one of you will be guaranteed.

The Nicaraguan fatherland and people require absolute peace. I am sure that you will contribute to achieving this absolute peace by disarming with dignity and by later striving in a civilized manner for peace, which is in jeopardy because of the severe unemployment and socio-economic inequalities that all Nicaraguans face.

[Signed] Sincerely, Army General Humberto Ortega Saavedra, Commander in Chief of the EPS

Rebel Leader 'El Chacal' Responds

PA1902021994 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Feb 94 pp 1, 16

[Report by Roberto Orozco]

[Excerpts] After analyzing the counterproposal from the 3-80 Northern Front, the government yesterday agreed to hold a meeting on Monday [21 February] in Ciudad Antigua, Nueva Segovia Department. As Army spokesmen disclosed, the meeting will be held in the morning. Colonel Javier Carrion, second in command of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] General Staff, will be among those attending the meeting.

This will mark the first time the military will sit down for talks with an armed group after the demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance in 1990. This morning during a ceremony to turn over the Region 3 Military Command Building, EPS Chief General Humberto Ortega said government troops are withdrawing from the conflict zone to the area suggested by the OAS-CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification] and Cardinal Obando y Bravo's Verification Commission.

Yesterday, the government reviewed the counterproposal sent by the 3-80 Northern Front in the main offices of the Government Ministry with Carrion present. Carrion arrived at the Government Ministry after CIAV Director Sergio Caramagna and Cardinal Obando y Bravo's Verification Commission representative delivered the armed group's new proposals to the government at 1100.

Those proposals, according to "Estaban," the 3-80 Northern Front's political chief, "are not outlandish." In order for the meeting to be held, the 3-80 Northern Front is basically demanding the physical security of all of its guerrillas and an EPS withdrawal from the conflict zone.

Last Tuesday, following a meeting with the OAS-CIAV and Cardinal Obando y Bravo's Verification Commission in El Rosario, 35 km northeast of Murra, the rearmed group claimed that special EPS troops equipped with rifles with silencers and supported by heavy artillery "are putting a military cordon around us."

During that same meeting, "Esteban" termed as "positive" the letter from Gen. Ortega, which informed the rebels on behalf of the EPS General Staff and the Military Council that "I guarantee you respect and protection for the lives and assests of all those who disarm immediately." [passage omitted]

Jose Angel Talavera Alaniz, a.k.a. "El Chacal," answered Gen. Ortega's letter yesterday. In a letter dated 15 February, the day of the meeting between the 3-80 Northern Front and the CIAV, "El Chacal" reaffirmed his willigness, as well as the willingness of the 3-80 Northern Front's Board of Commanders, to contribute to the peace process.

"On behalf of the 3-80 Northern Front, I am reiterating that the demands submitted to the OAS-CIAV at the 15 Febuary meeting in El Rosario have my full support," "El Chacal" wrote.

"We hope and trust that you (Gen. Ortega) and the EPS General Staff will contribute as soon as possible to giving us the minimum guarantees to begin to bring our troops together and immediately begin negotiations leading to the incorporation of our command members into the mainstream of society, within the context of the proposals made," the letter from "El Chacal" concluded.

The demands the 3-80 Northern Front basically refer to the personal safety of the rebels and their incorporation into the national police, as well as to some economic projects that the government must begin in the northern zone.

Army, Rebels Preview Peace Talks

PA1902010294 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Report by Miguel Mora from the "Extravision" newscast]

[Text] Both the Army and the 3-80 Northern Front acknowledge that there is great resolve to reach a solution in advance of the negotiations that will be held by the two sides on Monday [21 February] in Ciudad Antigua, Nueva Segovia Department.

On Monday, the 3-80 Northern Front's Council of Commanders, the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] staff, the OAS-CIAV [International Commission of Support

and Verification], the Verification Commission of Cardinal Obando y Bravo, and Esteli Bishop Msgr. Abelardo Mata will begin the first of a series of meetings that will have the objective of demobilizing the 3-80 Northern Front. In letters to each other, General Humberto Ortega and El Chacal [3-80 Northern Front leader Jose Angel Talavera] expressed mutual confidence in heading down the road toward disarmament.

[Begin recording] [3-80 Northern Front leader known as Esteban, in progress] ...the willingness of both the EPS staff and himself in guaranteeing us our safety to enable us to proceed toward our disarmament. We have viewed this as positive, but we obviously have to establish the mechanisms for this to take place.

[Humberto Ortega] We will maintain the truce. We will provide every facility so the CIAV and the cardinal's Verification Commission can create the conditions to establish direct contacts with them. In the short-term, we hope—as all Nicaraguans want—that they will rejoin the country's normal life, with all the guarantees I reiterated to Talavera and his people in my letter to him. [end recording]

Nevertheless, in the nine demands that the recontras presented, they asked for participation in police commands in Jinotega, Nueva Segovia, Quilali, El Jicaro, Murra, San Juan del Rio Coco, Yali, Pantasma, Ciudad Antigua, La Concordia, San Rafael del Norte, El Cua, Mancotal, and Bocay. They also demanded the demilitarization of northern Nicaragua.

[Begin recording] [Esteban, in progress] ...Nicaragua. Therefore, the police should be the ones to provide security to this entire area.

[Unidentified reporter] When you speak of the north, what areas are you talking about?

[Esteban] We are talking about Matagalpa, Jinotega, Nueva Segovia, and Esteli. [end recording]

The 3-80 Northern Front is practically demanding that it be given police and military control of a large part of Region 1. In Murra, they do not want to see any soldiers. They are demanding a maximum of 60 EPS members in the other municipalities. Referring to the demands of the recontras, Gen. Humberto Ortega said that in times of peace, few soldiers are needed.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] To the extent that total peace is achieved, the Army will not need to deploy troops. The number of troops we have is quite above what should really exist permanently in the various areas—in this case, in the country's north. Once Chacal's group disbands and the problem of armed groups substantially eases, we will not need to have an excess number of troops in those areas.

[CIAV representative Sergio Caramagna] This is progress. A strong willingness exists, and this is essential to begin reaching a solution. [end recording]

One's attention is drawn to the fact that the recontras are not asking for the presence of any civilian authority and, for the first time, prefer to talk, face to face, with those they confronted in combat in the past.

Rebels Announce New List of Demands

PA1902222494 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Feb 94 p 16

[Report by Roberto Orozco B.]

[Text] The 3-80 Northern Front, in a nine-point list released yesterday, demands from the government the chief of police posts in most of the municipalities and department capitals in Nueva Segovia and Jinotega Departments.

The government has not reacted to these demands, which according to the 3-80 Northern Front are requested as a guarantee for personal security for the rearmed rebels.

Nevertheless, both sides will meet on Monday in Ciudad Antigua, Nueva Segovia Department, to start negotiations that will permit the guerrillas to demobilize.

The 3-80 Northern Front Command Council headed by Jose Angel Talavera, known as Commander "Chacal," demands that once demobilized the group be assigned the chief of police posts in the municipalities of Quilali, El Jicaro, Murra, San Juan de Rio Coco, Yali, Pantasmas, Ciudad Antigua, La Concordia, San Rafael del Norte, El Cua, Mancotal, and Bocay.

The list of demands delivered to the government two days ago contain other secondary demands, such as the demilitarization of northern Nicaragua once the 3-80 Northern Front disarmament process has moved ahead, leaving only 60 soldiers in the above mentioned municipalities, except Murra. They also ask for the creation of new settlements for development based in Quilali, a disarmament schedule for the 3-80 Northern Front, and a special fund for the area's economic reactivation and road rebuilding.

Included in the points are the creation of a commission represented by the 3-80 Northern Front, the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] General Staff, CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification]-OAS, and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo Verification, including Esteli Bishop Monsignor Juan Abelardo Mata.

The 3-80 Northern Front, according to Commander "Esteban," who is second in command, dropped its previous political demands, such as the dismissal of General Humberto Ortega and Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, because the 3-80 Northern Front will restate these demands once they join the civilian struggle.

Yesterday Gen. Humberto Ortega said that the EPS has not set a hard and fast term for the 3-80 Northern Front to demobilize. "We are not placing them up against the

wall, but we hope the talks do not take too long otherwise everything may turn sour," Ortega said. According to Ortega, the EPS will maintain the truce and will allow the necessary conditions for the 3-80 Northern Front and the government to meet on Monday. The meeting will be attended by Colonel Javier Carrion, second in command in the EPS General Staff.

Ortega said that the Army is redeploying its troops to wherever intermediate organizations (CIAV-OAS, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo Verification) suggest. The military leader agrees with demilitarizing northern Nicaragua and said as peace is achieved "there will be no need for the EPS to maintain its troops in these areas. We are willing to maintain a minimum of soldiers once the 3-80 Northern Front disarms. We will keep enough troops to support the police in maintaining order," Ortega said.

Talks Start; Land Grants Proposed

PA2102134994 Managua Radio Nicaragua in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 94

[From the "This Morning" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Today, the government begins the first serious negotiations for a definitive cease-fire and the disarmament of the Northern Front 3-80's rebel troops, led by Jose Angel Talavera, a.k.a. El Chacal, in an effort to eventually pacify the country through demobilization, which will be the key to national stability and production.

Today a Nicaraguan Government commission will present a proposal to the rebels which includes the granting of lands and the legalization of ownership for the disarmed, creation of jobs in the community, and the implementation of educational and health programs.

Talks Suspended; No New Date

PA2102183994 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 94

[From the "Events" newscast]

[Text] The daily LA TRIBUNA reported this morning that the 3-80 Northern Front, which was slated to discuss its disarmament with government representatives, has announced these talks have been suspended due to the strong presence of EPS [Sandinist People's Army] troops in the area of El Dorado. As yet, no date has been set for a new meeting between the rebels led by El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera] and government representatives.

Government Attempts to Negotiate

PA2202042094 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0140 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Managua, 21 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Government today proposed keeping the troops of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] only in the cities and roads in the northern part of the country, in an attempt to negotiate with "recontra" leaders of the 3-80 Northern Front the disarmament and demobilization of that rebel organization.

This evening, the Government Ministry released a press note reporting that it also agreed to "clean" El Zungano region of any military presence. The rebels headed by Jose Angel Talavera, also known as "Chacal," operate in that region.

According to official information, the EPS will only leave a small unit in the Cautalu sector, another bastion of approximately 400 former rearmed "contras," known as "recontras."

"Seven days after the opening of the (recontras') reconcentration zone, the (eight-point) agenda will be discussed in total. This agenda was presented by the Northern Front on 15 February," the note added.

These counterproposals by the government will be sent to "Chacal" at an undetermined date through the OAS' International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV-OAS) which, together with representatives of the church, is serving as a mediator in these negotiations.

In addition, the government will focus its efforts on social development in the country's northern area with the support of ministries and other state agencies and with the opening of an interinstitutional office in Quilali, near the border with Honduras.

A group of six from the 3-80 Northern Front's staff demanded the incorporation of "recontra" chiefs to the Jinotega and Nueva Segovia Police in order for them to disarm and demobilize. Other (recontras) should be incorporated into the Quilali, Jicargo, Murra, San Juan del Rio Coco, Yali, Pantasma, Ciudad Antigua, la Concordia, San Rafael del Norte, Cua, Mancotal, and Bocay Police.

They also asked for the creation of a development center located in Quilali, the reconcentration of the EPS' troops, and the maintenance of no more than 60 soldiers in those municipalities, except in Murra.

Other rebels demands are the demilitarization of the northern part of the country—once the 3-80 Northern Front's disarmament progresses—as well as benefit programs for the wounded, widows, and orphans.

Additional rebels requests are the repair of rural roads in the region, the creation of a special fund for the north's economic reactivation, and legal status for the "3-80 Northern Front" organization.

The first direct meeting between the government of Nicaragua and "recontra' chiefs of the 3-80 Northern Front slated to be held today, Monday, was put off for several days after the rebels argued that "there was still strong Army presence in the nation's northern regions."

The problem of the rearmed rebels arose in 1990 shortly after President Violeta Chamorro took office as several thousand of the 22,000 former demobilized "contras," not happy with the government, broke the agreement to turn over their weapons and once again took up arms.

Gen Ortega Says No Plans To Reestablish Draft

PA1902021894 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Feb 94

[From the "Events" newscast]

[Text] General Humberto Ortega has said the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] will not reestablish the SMP [Patriotic Military Service]. During the ceremony to transfer the EPS installations located at kilometer marker 20 of the road to Masaya to the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry, EPS Chief Gen. Humberto Ortega said yesterday that the Military High Command is not planning to reestablish the SMP in the country. Here is what Gen. Ortega said:

[Begin Ortega recording] It is not enough to disarm. An effective program is necessary to permit the disarmed individuals to earn a livelihood and gradually rejoin the country's life through employment in order to increase their standard of living and live decently. Disarmament is not enough for peace to exist. We must all work to overcome the high levels of inequality and poverty and to prevent the concentration of capital in the hands of a few people because that will always create a big gap between the few who have everything and the many who have nothing. Those are the real roots of violence that might come in the future. [end recording]

Chamorro Creates Social Communications Directorate

PA1802124594 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0017 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Managua, 17 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro today appointed Luis Rivas Leiva, a physician and Social Democrat, to the post of director of Social Communications of the Presidency of the Republic. Chamorro also signed a decree creating the Social Communications Directorate, which dissolves the Public Relations and Official Information Directorate of the Presidency, as well as the Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency.

The Public Relations and Official Information Directorate was previously headed by Danilo Lacayo Lanzas, a lawyer and Social Democrat, who resigned on Tuesday to practice his profession and return to the private sector, according to official sources.

The Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency was in charge of reporting the activities of cabinet members and was headed by Ernesto Robleto, who resigned from the position in the latter part of 1993, also to return to the private sector.

Chamorro appointed journalist Maria Alicia Talavera Sevilla, former editor of BARRICADA newspaper in Managua, as deputy director of the Social Communications Directorate. Both officials were sworn in by the Nicaraguan president in her office this afternoon.

Decree Outlines Organization

PA1802144994 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Decree No. 5-94 issued by Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro in Managua on 17 February; from the "This Morning" newscast]

[Text] The president of the Republic of Nicaragua, by virtue of her powers, decrees:

Article 1

The Social Communications Directorate is created. For brevity's sake, from here on in this decree it will be called the Directorate. It will be under the Presidency of the Republic. The Directorate will be in charge of reporting the activities of the Presidency of the Republic and the executive branch to achieve better dissemination of their work, programs, and projects.

Article 2

The directorate will have the following principal functions:

A. Be in charge of the information services of the Presidency of the Republic and the executive branch.

B. Report the activities of the government in general, proceeding to improve their dissemination.

C. Coordinate the official spokespersons and officials in charge of public relations of the various executive branch institutions to achieve a coherent dissemination of the government plans and activities.

D. Compile and process information about events of interest to the government of the Republic.

E. Direct the publicity of the executive branch institutions to streamline the use of resources and transmit a more coherent image of the government's actions.

F. Establish relations with various local and foreign media and with public and private organizations involved in this activity.

Article 3

A general director and two deputy directors appointed by the president of the Republic will be in charge of the Directorate. The deputy directors will cooperate with the general director in the activities he assigns them for the better development of their functions.

Article 4

The directorate will have an advisory council formed by the number of members the president of the Republic decides and appoints. This council will be headed by the general director, and its organization and functions will be regulated by the respective regulations.

Article 5

The Social Communications Directorate will replace the Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic [DIPP], which was created by Decree 9-90, without interruption of all its rights and obligations.

Article 6

All assets and enterprises that had been assigned to the administration of the DIPP, which is dissolved with this decree, are transferred—without interruption of rights and obligations—through this decree and for the same motive to the Social Communications Directorate that is created here.

Article 7

The Finance Ministry, in coordination with the Social Communications Directorate, will appoint a board to liquidate the DIPP to determine the assumption or transfer of the assets and liabilities of that directorate, in accordance with what was previously stated.

Article 8

The general director will organize the functioning of the Directorate and the efficient coordination of its informational activities and programs.

Article 9

Presidential Decree No. 9-90, creating the DIPP and published in LA GACETA No. 98 on 23 May 1990, is abolished.

Article 10

This decree will enter into force after its publication by any media, not precluding its subsequent publication in LA GACETA, the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidential House in Managua on 17 February 1994.

Signed: Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of the Republic

Presidency Denies Contributing to Costa Rican Campaign

PA1902022094 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Presidency's Information and Press Directorate in Managua on 16 February; from the "This M rning" newscast—read by announcer]

[Text] The Information and Press Directorate informs the public that Vice President Virgilio Godoy's remarks regarding an alleged Nicaraguan Government contributions to the Costa Rican electoral campaign are unfounded and false. Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo and his wife visited this sister nation in January because the candidates of the National Liberation and Social Christian Unity parties invited them to observe the electoral process.

Mr. Lacayo seized this opportunity to talk with the two candidates about the good relations that Nicaragua hopes to have with the new Costa Rican Government that will rule this country for the next four years. He also spoke to them on behalf of those Nicaraguans who work or want to work in Costa Rica. He received from current Government Minister Luis Fishman and from the two candidates words of support for the Nicaraguan workers who go there protected within the framework of the agreement signed by the Labor Ministries of the two countries. The agreement guarantees such workers the full enjoyment and benefit of the labor rights in force in Costa Rica.

The current Costa Rican Government believes that those Nicaraguans who go there unprotected within the framework of the said agreement are exposing themselves to mistreatment by unscrupulous people who take advantage of the Nicaraguan workers' lack of legal documents to avoid paying minimum wages and other social benefits. This constitutes a crime that Costa Rican authorities are willing to fight by issuing the pertinent documents through the mechanism agreed upon by the Labor Ministries of the two countries.

[Dated] Managua, 16 February 1994

[Signed] Presidency of the Republic, Information and Press Directorate

Panama

PRD, Other Parties Form 'United People' Alliance

PA1902003294 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Feb 94

[From the "Telemetro Reports" newscast]

[Text] The first political alliance was presented today before the Electoral Tribunal Secretariat. It is called the United People [Pueblo Unido]. and it comprises the

PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], the Labor Party, and the Liberal Republican Party.

According to Ernesto Perez Balladares, presidential candidate for the alliance, the purpose of this electoral merger is to present a program to resolve the country's most pressing problems. Perez Balladares also stressed that the possible reentry of the former military into politics would pose danger to the country.

[Begin recording] [Perez Balladares] I respect the right that members of the military or former members of the military have to participate in politics and party politics. Nevertheless, I must call attention to the fact that it is dangerous if they unite as a power bloc or somehow again become a determinant force. Even though this may only be the start of what could be the return of such a force, I must draw attention to it, because the desperation to attain power could lead someone to resort to something we all wish to forget and leave in the past.

[Unidentified reporter] Dr. Ernesto Perez Balladares, is the purge, so to speak, which evidently has been taking place within the PRD, designed to ensure that civilian forces lead the party?

[Perez Balladares] I believe we have instituted an internal democracy, which is very evident to the great majority of the Panamanian people. This internal democracy has caused individuals or people who disagree the party's main ideals to be cast aside by the very dynamics of democracy. I do not think we have had... [pauses] I do not like the term purge, but we have had a continual influx of internal democracy. This is also proof positive that we have pledged to maintain this internal democracy and to make it effective nationwide the day we come to power. [end recording]

Commentary Refutes U.S. Officials' Views on Country

PA1902171094 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Feb 94 p 1

[From the "As of Today" column]

[Text] There is a constant in Panamanian-U.S. relations, perhaps as a result of the superficial visits to which U.S. congressmen are so addicted and the prejudices that abound in the State Department, the Pentagon, the CIA, the DEA, and all the apparently countless agencies that gather, process, and analyze information on almost anything imaginable.

Another reason for this could be the intervention of "experts," who frequently visit our country for two or three days during which they attend dinners, receptions, cocktail parties, and then feel they have the authority to talk about the past, understand the present, and anticipate the future of the entire region. Despite all their efforts, they have accomplished very little.

Panama is not what they imagined under the Torrijos, Flores, Paredes, or Noriega dictatorships. It is not what is conceived through the talent of one limited bureaucrat or another. There are certainly many limitations in our country: the burden of public debt is unbearable, the administration of justice is not perfect, the Legislative Assembly is far from being truly representative, the differences within the government coalition have made it difficult to effectively conduct public administration, and the political class is not precisely knowledgeable.

Nevertheless, in Panama today, human rights are respected, the economy is developing, unemployment has decreased, and public security has improved. There is a democratic government system and significant progress has been made in the fight against drug trafficking, gunrunning, and our country is no longer a haven for guerrillas and all kinds of criminals. Please understand this!

Bolivia

Lower House President, Senator on U.S. Drug Policy

PY1802192594 La Paz HOY in Spanish 11 Feb 94 p 14

[Text] Chamber of Deputies President Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez, who is the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] leader, noted yesterday that the announcement of the new U.S. drug enforcement strategy will cause political and social conflicts in our country.

The Chamber of Deputies president said the announcement of a reduction in U.S. cooperation in the field of alternative development will prompt "dissatisfaction" among coca producers.

Bedregal pondered: "We will have a very serious political conflict if the crops are reduced just to reduce them, without the proper alternative development planning. The poor coca producer, who is tied to the crisis in Bolivia, will be hard hit."

Bedregal wants the announcement handled "with much care," but announced that the discussions to approve the national budget will consider the issue when establishing our country's drug enforcement activities. He said the deputies may discuss this issue after the carnival adjournment.

Guillermo Richter, the Senate Government and Drug Trafficking Committee chairman, said he agrees that repression mechanisms should be "as efficient as possible" to prevent illegal activities.

Richter said: "I would have liked greater support in economic and financial terms—not just from the Clinton Administration, but also from the international community—to help our country and other states that are troubled by this scourge promote alternative development."

The U.S. Government's announcements mainly involve countries that produce raw materials to process drugs—like Bolivia which produces coca leaves that are traditionally used for medicinal purposes, and cocaine.

While opinions on the U.S. President's announcement were voiced in Congress, executive branch sources linked to this issue—the Ministry of Government and the Social Defense Secretariat—did not comment.

Unofficial sources announced that the government will wait for the return of President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, who went to Oruro yesterday, before adopting a position or beginning discussions to establish the drug enforcement policy that will be implemented in our country.

Military Indifferent To U.S. Coca Interdiction Cutback

PY1802195394 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 11 Feb 94 p 1

[Excerpt] La Paz, 10 Feb (LOS TIEMPOS)—Army General Staff senior officers said on 9 February in La Paz that the budget cutback in the drug-trafficking interdiction programs in the coca-producing countries announced by the U.S. Government "is immaterial to the Bolivian Armed Forces."

The military sources told LOS TIEMPOS that this attitude is to be understood to the extent that "the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force have never actually received these funds."

The military sources supported their opinions by pointing out that the U.S. Army spent more than $5 million in the name of Bolivia under the excuse of carrying out civic actions in the town of Santa Ana del Yacuma in Beni Department in 1992.

The sources noted: "In fact, barely $250,000 was invested in building a school that year."

In the opinion of our country's military authorities, the cutbacks in this year's interdiction programs announced by U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration "are a result of the U.S. Army's mismanagement of economic resources over the past few years." [passage omitted]

Drug Trafficker Charges Regiment Manufactures Cocaine

PY1802200694 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Excerpts] A drug trafficker's testimony is the cause of controversy in the political arena. The following is a report by Mario Espinoza, who will tell us about this and other issues such as the bid for the Cotapata-Santa Barbara road construction project and the government budget.

[Mario Espinoza] The testimony of drug trafficker Meco Dominguez, which was reported by the Fides news agency and carried by newspapers in La Paz and nationwide, has caused a true political earthquake.

The MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] has come out to defend its party members and former President Paz Zamora by stating that [former Interior Minister] Guillermo Capobianco has called a news conference this morning in Santa Cruz and is willing to subject himself to any investigation.

At any rate, we are facing a unique situation because the drug trafficker has caused a political earthquake by slandering respectable institutions such as the Bank of Santa Cruz.

Moreover, MIR President Oscar Eid Franco has denied Dominguez' charges. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified anchorwoman] As was reported by Mario Espinoza, drug trafficker Meco Dominguez has made charges against the private banking industry and the Armed Forces. A Fides news agency report reads, text, that for the first time a Bolivian bank has been charged in alleged involvement in money laundering activities.

The report adds that the bank, which has connections with U.S. and Panamanian banks, obtained the funds from the Colombian and Bolivian drug cartels.

Moreover, according to what the controversial Meco Dominguez told fiscal and police officials, the Monchego regiment has become a cocaine manufacturing center.

Regarding the alleged money laundering activities conducted by the Bank of Santa Cruz, Meco Dominguez alleges he held a meeting with bank officials in 1990. He added that in 1989, through Juan Carlos Pereira Paz, bank transactions were conducted with this gentleman for the cashing of six checks for $50,000 each for the Cali cartel.

Parallel FELCN Gang Reportedly Disbanded

PY1802180394 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Relay from Santa Cruz by Marcelo Huanca Dorado]

[Text] The Special Antinarcotics Force [FELCN] has reported that it has disbanded a gang of swindlers which reportedly earned profits totaling about $3 million. This [word indistinct] organization has been acting parallel to the FELCN for approximately the last four years.

This organization had its own informers, and its own clandestine barracks. Three of the organization's informers were arrested. Among them are a former policeman and a former FELCN member who had detailed knowledge of the drug traffickers' activities. Those arrested have been identified as (Roger Gandarillas), (Felix Flores Aldin), and (Walter Orellana). (Roger Gandarillas) is reportedly the leader of the organization, which allegedly was able to swindle about $3 million from the drug traffickers.

This gang, organized after the Colombian drug mafias, was made up of people who had detailed knowledge of all drug trafficking activities. They had identified all persons involved in drug trafficking activities, and their movements.

The organization seized drugs but instead of delivering them to the proper government organizations, it kept the seized cargo for itself and later distributed it.

FELCN officials, who added that the investigations continue, yesterday invited reporters to one of the properties that was seized from this organization. The property is located on Francisco Mora Avenue.

Peasants Criticize Government Threats To Eradicate Coca

PY1802194494 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 10 Feb 94 p A8

[Text] La Paz, 9 Feb (LOS TIEMPOS)—Coca peasants in Cochabamba's tropical region on 9 February in La Paz said National Social Defense Secretariat and the Special Antinarcotics Force personnel scared their families and threatened to carry out actions to eradicate coca crops.

Guido Tarqui, national settlers secretary from the Bolivian Labor Federation, said that in the past few days the narcotics under secretary and a Coca Reduction Directorate (Direco) official threatened Chapare peasants, urging them to voluntarily eradicate their coca crops.

He said the two government officials openly threatened the peasants by telling them that "in case they do not follow the coca crops eradication plan, the National Social Defense Secretariat will begin carrying out direct interdiction actions in the area."

Tarqui said the two officials announced that more coca eradication employees are being taken to Chapare for the purpose of eradicating coca crops "by fair means or foul."

Tarqui said this attitude intimidates the peasants, which may lead to "clashes and the spilling of blood."

"The peasants are not willing to allow their crops to be eradicated without any consideration," Tarqui said, adding that "the only means of living for the area's peasants are coca leaves."

Call for General Mobilization, Resistance

PY1802193094 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Reports by Nicolas Sanabria Garron from La Paz and Luis Mayan from Cochabamba]

[Text] [Nicolas Sanabria Garron] Coca farmers have declared themselves in a state of emergency. Coca farmers have called for active resistance to avoid the forceful eradication of coca farms in the region.

(Cibar Victoria), second secretary of the General Trade Union Confederation of Peasant Workers, reported:

[Begin (Cibar Victoria) recording]: In keeping with the government's repressive guidelines, the government's repressive forces—UMOPAR [Mobile Police Units for Rural Areas] and the DEA—on 14 February at 0500 [words indistinct] eradicated five hectares of the sacred coca leaf. To conduct this eradication operation, the government forces arrested several fellow peasants in a violent and savage manner and are keeping them incommunicado. [end recording]

[Luis Mayan] Farmers from the (Villa Cunari) coca-producing farmers cooperative have decided to declare themselves in a state of emergency and general mobilization. The following is a report by peasant leader Valentin Gutierrez, who reports the assembly's conclusions.

[Begin Valentin Gutierrez recording] We have decided to put in force the self-defense committees and declare ourselves in a state of emergency and general mobilization at the grass-roots level.

This means we will not be responsible for any eventual conflict or clash that may be caused by the government's repressive forces.

The government will be solely responsible for any eventual conflict because coca producers have been willing to negotiate and have attended all negotiations called by the government. Therefore, the government is solely responsible for any eventual conflict. [end recording]

According to reports supplied to this radio station, we reassert that members of Dinaco [National Coca Control Directorate], Direco [Coca Eradication Directorate], UMOPAR, and inmates from the Chimore rehabilitation center continue to eradicate coca farms by force. These eradication operations are being conducted at the (?Sebastian Fundador) colony against the (?Ibircanzana) coca farmers cooperative where, according to peasant leaders, there was a clash and tear gas was used.

Brazil

U.S. Subsidy Law Viewed as Threatening Shipyards

PY1802200294 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Feb 94 p 24

[Article by Andrea Dunningham]

[Text] As of 1995, Brazilian shipping companies that compete with U.S. ship-owning companies in maritime transportation between the two countries will face a serious disadvantage. The U.S. Congress has just approved, and President Clinton has sanctioned, a new law granting subsidies to private shipyards. For the next 10 years, 70 of the 151 ships that comprise the U.S. merchant fleet will receive $2.1 million per year to finance their operations.

This law is the most important piece of maritime legislation to be approved since the United States approved the first subsidy for the sector in 1936 (now they subsidize the salaries of the sector employees). The law was sponsored by Deputy Gerry E. Studds of the Democratic Party, Massachusetts. It was approved in Congress by 347 votes to 65. It seeks to stimulate naval construction in the country and to strengthen the U.S. merchant fleet which was reduced from 620 ships 28 years ago to 151.

The subsidy will be granted to all merchant ships sailing under U.S. flag that are suitable for military use. The subsidy will help U.S. shipyards to make their shipbuilding prices competitive on the international market. If U.S. shipyard prices are higher than those of another country, the U.S. Government can also grant subsidies to shipowners who choose to have ship built abroad.

Sergio Salomao, president of the National Union of Maritime Navigation Enterprises (Syndarma), has said this new subsidy enables U.S. shipowners to make new investment, increase the level of their services, and reduce still further their freight prices which are already about 30 percent less than those of Brazilian companies.

Government Denies Venezuelan Foray Into Brazilian Soil

PY1902010694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1648 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Brasilia, 18 Feb (EFE)—The Brazilian Foreign Ministry has denied an alleged Venezuelan military foray inside Brazilian territory in the Amazon region.

Brazilian Foreign Ministry sources in Brasilia said the information regarding an incursion by Venezuelan National Guard troops to capture Brazilian "garimpeiros" (illegal miners) is "absurd."

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry has not been informed about the possible detention of "garimpeiros" by Venezuelan authorities, even though the possibility cannot be ruled out, the sources added.

Entrepreneur Jose Altino Machado, who owns machinery for the illegal mining of minerals in the Amazon region, said that last week the Venezuelan National Guard entered Brazilian territory to capture 32 "garimpeiros" and the "garimpeiros" were later taken to the Venezuelan city of Puerto Ayacucho.

In the past few years dozens of Brazilian "garimpeiros" have been arrested by the National Guard on charges of illegal mining of gold and other minerals in Venezuela. On some occasions authorities were able to confirm reports of Venezuelan forays inside Brazilian territory.

Brazil and Venezuela share a common border 2,000 km long that is sparsely controlled, has minimal communications, and few settlements.

According to officials sources, the problem of illegal mining, the protection of indigenous populations, and the Amazon region's development will be discussed during an official visit Brazilian President Itamar Franco will make to Venezuela between 3 and 5 March.

Franco will travel to Venezuela at the invitation of Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera.

President Said Not Depressed by Carnival Controversy

PY1902235094 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Feb 94 p 4

[Text] Juiz de Fora—Not only those on duty in Congress were called to mitigate the consequences of President Itamar Franco's behavior and comments these past few days. The president's friends also are trying to prove that Franco, secluded in Juiz de Fora, does not feel depressed by the consequences of his merry behavior during Carnival.

Telemig [expansion unknown] director Roberto Medeiros, who is one of Franco's closest friends, said: "The president is very happy; he is cheerful and in good spirits."

In the meantime, despite so much "happiness," Franco remains isolated in either his downtown apartment or his home in the Parque Imperial compound. In his apartment, Franco only received Secretary General of the Presidency Mauro Durante, adviser Saulo Moreira, his secretary Neusa Mitterhoff, and his friend Roberto Medeiros. On 18 February, as he left his apartment for another appointment with the dentist, Franco looked depressed. Franco spent some 130 minutes at dentist Luis Serrato's office, from where he went to his house located far from the downtown area.

Another friend of Franco's commented: "The president is no longer worried about what happened in Carnival. What worries him is the inflation rate, the serious national problems; that is why he looks serious."

Franco will return to Brasilia on 20 February, according to Acting Press Secretary Fernando Costa, who also denied the president met Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso in Juiz de Fora on 18 February.

Franco Remarks on Possible Cardoso Candidacy Viewed

PSDB Leadership Reacts

PY1802231294 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Feb 94 p 3

[Article by Luiz Carlos Azedo]

[Text] The PSDB [Brazilian Social Democratic Party] leadership is upset because President Itamar Franco—while attending Carnival in Juiz de Fora on 15 February—launched the presidential candidacy of [Finance Minister] Fernando Henrique Cardoso. The PSDB leaders believe this will only jeopardize the approval of the Social Emergency Fund.

Deputy Luiz Maximo (PSDB-Sao Paulo), the vice leader of the party bloc in the lower house, commented: "The president would do the country a favor if he remained quiet. There was no need for him to say what he did. Obviously, he has every right to express his choice, but launching the PSDB candidate is something that only concerns the party."

Senator Mario Covas, the party bloc leader in the Senate, was also upset by the president's comments because he believes they contradict the PSDB's strategy regarding the presidential succession and jeopardize the approval of the economic plan that will be voted for the second time by Congress next week. The PSDB candidate for the governorship of Sao Paulo State—who supports Fernando Henrique Cardoso's candidacy whether the plan is approved or not—said the PSDB should not voice an opinion on succession before 2 April; the deadline by which those who wish to run for election must resign from their public posts.

Federal Deputy Jose Anibal (PSDB-Sao Paulo) said the PSDB's strategy is to approve the plan and cooperate with the constitutional revision with a minimum agenda to guarantee essential reforms: Those involving tax, social security, political, and economic reforms. Only then will the party choose its candidate for the presidency of the Republic.

"All parties are taking the succession into account. I believe the plan should be approved and that a minimum agenda should be discussed despite the president's attitude," asserted Jose Anibal, minimizing the repercussion of Itamar Franco's comments. He said Carnival and the reaction of the minister have neutralized what the president of the Republic said.

PMDB Deputy: Support 'Untimely'

PY1802220994 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Feb 94 p 3

[Text] Brasilia—Deputy Nelson Jobim (PMDB-RS [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Rio Grande do Sul]), the rapporteur of the constitutional revision, on 17 February blamed President Itamar Franco for the possible problems he may encounter in getting the parties that guaranteed the passage of the Social Emergency Fund [FSE] in the first round of congressional balloting to support it in the second round. Jobim termed the president's launching of a ticket with [Finance] Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso as the presidential candidate and Deputy Antonio Britto (PMDB-RS)—former social security minister—as his running mate most untimely.

Jobim did not hide his annoyance with the president's position because all his efforts to lobby for the FSE in Congress—and especially the PMDB (which vies with the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] for the same portion of the electorate)—are centered on keeping support for the FSE separate from Cardoso's possible candidacy.

He said: It was not the right moment to talk about that. From a strategic standpoint, the president ought to have realized that he should avoid referring to candidacies

now. During the first round of voting on the FSE, Jobim denounced the actions of Education Minister Murilio Hingel's advisers, who nearly sank the agreement worked out between Cardoso and the PMDB, the PFL [Liberal Front Party], and the PSDB.

Jobim stated: Parties also have to decide whether they are interested in the country's situation or how they will fare in the election.

Jobim will not modify the text passed in the first round of voting last week. He commented that he intends to have the original FSE text voted through. He thus will propose rejecting the amendments introduced to the plan. The deadline for submitting amendments to the FSE, which would entail some modifications to the text approved in the first round, expired on 17 February.

Jobim said: There may be negotiations between parties, but we are very well disposed.

The majority of the 31 amendments introduced changes in the articles that deal with appropriations for education, housing, and health care. Jobim believes there is no need to modify the original text because Congress will be able to define new percentages to be appropriated for education when it votes on the law that will regulate the use of the FSE. He expects that the second round of voting on the FSE will take place on 23 February.

He said: This is an odd struggle because congressmen may decide that afterward and they may even appropriate a considerably higher amount for education.

Jobim believes the FSE may be enacted at the end of the month if its text is not amended. He also agrees that the constitutional revision will have been concluded by 30 May. According to Jobim, there are enough proposals to establish an agenda for the constitutional revision; "only the political will of political parties is needed."

Lula 'Once Again Defeated' by PT Executive Board

FY1802214494 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Feb 94 p 3

[Text] Sao Paulo—The PT [Workers Party] candidate for the presidency of the Republic, Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, was once again defeated last night—this time by omission—by the party's Executive Board. The national congressional bloc did not obtain authorization to participate in the constitutional revision process. In the meeting, Lula defended the idea of an autonomous position that would have given the party bloc the power to define a framework for participation with the contras [groups opposed to the revision] and decide on which points legislators could vote. But Lula did not even vote. He left before the meeting ended. Had he stayed and voted, the picture would have changed because the final vote ended up in a tie of eight votes for, eight against, and one abstention.

The tie left in effect a previous national Executive Board decision limiting the party bloc's participation to voting on the Social Emergency Fund (FSE) and attending negotiations on a maximum agenda to make sure that the revision ends by 15 May.

"The tense climate between the Executive Board and the party congressional bloc remains intact," PT Secretary General Gilberto Carvalho said, admitting to being surprised by the new impasse.

Deputy Jose Genoino (SP [Sao Paulo]) said the result is a disaster for the negotiations between party bloc members and the contras.

"They (contras) need to know whether they can count on our votes or not. Without a decision on this point the negotiation cannot progress," Genoino complained, adding that the decision will continue "tearing" the party bloc.

Deputy Eduardo Jorge (SP), congressional party bloc vice president, recognized that the difficulties for negotiations with the contras have increased, but said yesterday's tie shows that Lula's intervention has already helped change the internal crisis.

"We started losing by 15 to nil on this question. Then we lost by 15 to four, and now we got a tie," Eduardo Jorge said.

Lula also was defeated on the discussion of controversial items in the PT government platform. In order to please radicals and moderates, the moratorium stopped being explicitly mentioned as the path to negotiate the foreign debt, but it stayed camouflaged under a new definition defending the right of the future government to resort to a suspension of payments if creditors are inflexible.

Lula did not vote on this issue either. He left a message saying: "My position is to the left of the proposed draft." Federal Deputy Aloizio Mercadante (SP), his economic adviser, not only voted in favor of the proposal but also spoke for it. State Deputy Ruy Falcao, who leads the radicals, said he finds no difference between a suspension of payments and a moratorium.

Lula also lost in the vote on Senator Eduardo Suplicy's (SP) minimum income proposal. The proposal, which would have been the basic item in the PT income redistribution program, was defeated by eight votes to seven, with four abstentions, obtained by the party economists' proposal.

The board also discussed the issue of the Armed Forces and approved a new draft where support for the Armed Forces' modernization prevails, but without making reference to military projects.

Criticism

Lula criticized President Itamar Franco for his remarks supporting the candidacy of Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

"As a citizen, Franco has the right to support any ticket of his liking, but as a president he has other responsibilities and needs to govern the country."

Lula then minimized the effect of Franco's remarks.

"The president is not wholly behind that ball; he was burned a little already."

Minister Confirms Embraer Auction Postponement

PY1802204294 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Feb 94 p B4

[Article by Julio Ottoboni]

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos—Aeronautics Minister Lelio Viana Lobo confirmed that the Brazilian Aeronautics Company (Embraer) privatization auction, scheduled for 24 March, has been postponed. According to the aeronautics minister, there are various problems now to complement the studies and decisions on the company's privatization process jointly studied by his ministry and the Finance Ministry. He noted: "All this budget and social function problem is strongly engulfing us." Embraer Superintendent Ozires Silva again stressed that the company's situation is very serious and requires a quick decision.

Embraer's directorate eagerly views the delay and confirmation of a new date, which still has not been set. Less than one month ago, the date was moved from 25 to 24 March. Ozires Silva emphasized: "Privatization represents the only short-term solution for Embraer."

In 1993, Embraer's sales were four times lower than its financial debt, estimated at $890 million. The Embraer director emphasized that it is necessary to guarantee the entry of income and manage a maximum debt of $200 million in order to again put the company on a sound footing and make it competitive and attractive for those interested in purchasing it. Nevertheless, the debt's capitalization systems still are being discussed by the federal government.

The only organization that benefited from the entire lack of decision on Embraer was the Embraer Defense Commission—No To Privatization [Comissao de Defesa da Embraer—Nao a Privatizacao], an organization of professional associations and trade unions. This organization's goals now have been enhanced because they are part of the campaign speeches delivered by PT [Workers Party] presidential candidate Luis Inacio Lula da Silva.

The Embraer Defense Commission—No To Privatization has scheduled a meeting with Minister Viana Lobo early next week. During this meeting, an Embraer economic-financial feasibility study will be delivered and a retrogression in the company's privatization process will be discussed.

Drug Trafficker 'War' Erupts During Samba Parade

PY1802204394 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBC in Portuguese 17 Feb 94 p 16

[Text] Mangueira Hill slum had a tense day on 16 February as a result of the war staged by drug traffickers Polegar and Manino. The war started while the slum's samba group was beginning to parade along Marques de Sapucai Avenue. So far, seven people have been killed—three of them belonged to Manino's gang and four to his rival Polegar's gang. The atmosphere of fear kept the Manguera Hill slum residents off their own samba rehearsal ground. Very few of them accompanied the vote counting on 16 February to choose the winner of the special samba group parade.

Some armed men freely circulated around the rehearsal ground and the neighboring alleys because there were no police patrolling the slum. An eyewitness, whose identity is being kept secret, testified at the 17th Police Precinct (Sao Cristovao District) on the war's details. According to the witness, Polegar—who controls the part of the slum known as Chale—planned to increase his territory as soon as the Mangueira Samba Group began parading. He planned to invade Manino's area—the one known as Buraco Quente—while everyone was attentively watching the samba group's performance during the parade.

Early on 16 February, 20 Polegar men wearing Civil Police jackets invaded the Buraco Quente area and killed three members of the rival drug trafficking gang. Manino answered the attack early the following morning, when four of Polegar's men were found dead.

Chile

3 Arrested After 'Provocation' Near U.S. Embassy

PY2202124694 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Three individuals were injured this morning following a confusing incident near the U.S. Embassy, in the Parque Forestal area.

According to the first report, three individuals provoked Carabineros agents guarding the area and escaped when the agents tried to arrest them. Police organized a dragnet in the area with the support of central Santiago's Fourth Police Station. The individuals were finally captured and taken to the central hospital for the treatment of possible injuries. Police did not reveal the identity of the individuals in question, but we reiterate, their arrest was as the result of a provocation against personnel on guard near the U.S. Embassy. The incident occurred at approximately 0615 today.

Fishmeal Producers Concerned About Mexican Sanctions

PY1802210194 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Sofofa [Industrial Development Association] and Chilean Foreign Ministry representatives, after a meeting at the Finance Ministry, attributed the harm Mexican industrialists have blamed on Chilean fishmeal producers to the Peruvian presence in the international market and high production costs in Mexico.

The meeting was attended by Juan Salazar, Finance Ministry international policy adviser and future Foreign Ministry economic affairs director; Alejandro Jara, bilateral affairs director for the International Economic Relations Directorate; and Fishing Corporation and Sofofa representatives.

Sofofa Secretary General Jaime Pozo said the Mexican charges, which resulted in temporary sanctions against Chile while an investigation is conducted, are quite groundless:

[Begin Pozo recording, in progress] ...punctual. One must adjust to the international market prices currently set by Peru, which is exporting at significantly low prices. Chilean industry cannot just fail to comply with previously made contracts. Mexico also is buying in the international market because Chilean fishmeal is of very good quality and, in this sense, it is very competitive precisely because of its quality. [end recording]

The Chilean business sector has asked the government's support in confronting charges that, according to the Mexican law system, Chile exports below cost. Salazar explained that the government is concerned about this issue and will raise the subject before the administrative council of the Chilean-Mexican Free Trade Accord.

Moreover, Alejandro Jara said Chile is not causing Mexican producers any harm:

[Begin Jara recording, in progress] ...we are very worried. Mexican businessmen cannot categorically say that Chilean fishmeal exports are the direct and main cause of the harm suffered by the Mexican industry, which has experienced a significant reduction in its sales in addition to having to go by the international fishmeal price, which also affects Chile because they have been relatively low or, at, least lower than when the investigation was carried out. [end recording]

Jara said these measures are unjustified and must be reversed as soon as possible.

Mexican Sanctions 'National Problem'

PY1902020894 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Acting Economy Minister Andres Couve said the problem posed by Chilean fishmeal exports to Mexico are a national problem.

Couve ratified the government's support for Chilean fishmeal producers by explaining that commercial sanctions imposed by Mexico, although the conflict only involves private companies, will affect the entire Chilean fishmeal industry.

According to Couve, the Mexican Fishmeal Industry Chamber has charged four Chilean companies—Coloso, Eperba, Iquique, and Indo—of dumping, that is, of selling fishmeal in Mexico at prices below those they would sell in Chile.

However, the compensatory fees these enterprises will have to pay will be extended to all other Chilean fishing companies. This information was confirmed by Chilean Ambassador to Mexico Julio de la Fuente. [recorded passage indistinct]

We are going to grant our full support to the Chilean fishing companies because our objective is that the Mexican sanctions be lifted, stated Andres Couve, who said the compensatory fees established by Mexico almost ban Chilean fishmeal from entering the Mexican market.

He recalled that fishmeal exports are the ones that have increased most among Chilean exports to Mexico.

He added that this situation benefits Peru, which has grown and is now competing with very low prices in markets that were supplied exclusively by Chile until recently.

Agreement Signed With Canada To Build Biogenetic Lab

PY1802210494 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] National Resources Minister Luis Alvarado announced that a biogenetic laboratory to study the lenga magallanica tree will be built in Tierra del Fuego Province.

This initiative falls within the framework of an agreement signed by the National Resources Ministry, Canadian Cooperation, and a private foundation interested in studying why this specie grows in an unfavorable environment.

The reason for this initiative is the intensive exploitation of this resource by wood mills that use the lenga tree to produce chips [preceding word in English].

[Begin recording] [Alvarado] The idea is to carry out a scientific investigation that will tell us why this specie grows in such an unfavorable environment. What we want to do is build two sites on which this laboratory will be located.

[Unidentified reporter] Does this require a law?

[Alvarado] No. There is a direct agreement between the National Resources Ministry, Canadian Cooperation, and a private foundation. We estimate the research will

take four to five years before the lenga tree can be grown in nurseries. [end recording]

If this initiative proves fruitful, Chile will be able to grow lenga forests and thus have a new resource to exploit, according to Alvarado, who is visiting the 12th Region.

Air Fair To Display Russian Fighter Jets, Tor-M1

PY1802211594 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 10 Feb 94 p 4

[Excerpts] One of the former Soviet Union's airplanes that has always been a mystery to Western powers, the Sukhoi, which can hit a speed of Mach 2, will be shown at the International Aerospace Fair (Fidae 94) which will take place between 20 and 27 March at the Los Cerrillos base.

A group of officials from the Russian state company "Rosvuruzhenie" headed by Vladimir Kolnytchenco on 9 February signed a contract with Air Force Colonel Rodolfo Acuna Guimpert, Fidae executive director, to present SU-27 and SU-30 jets at the fair. [passage omitted]

The Russian state company "Rosvuruzhenie," which is the only Russian company entitled to trade weapons, also is dedicated to strengthening ties with foreign countries.

It will show about 100 pieces of war equipment and Russian military technology at Fidae 94, of which the Tor-M1 anti-aircraft rockets, which can down two airplanes simultaneously, are the most outstanding surface weapons.

Government Signs Information Agreement With Malaysia

PY1802214794 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 8 Feb 94 p C2

[Text] Malaysian Information Minister Datuk Mohamed bin Rahmat announced in Kuala Lumpur on 7 February that Chile and Malaysia have agreed to establish a joint commission to cooperate in the areas of information broadcasting and dissemination.

The agreement was closed by Enrique Correa Rios, minister secretary general of government, during meetings with Malaysian officials in that Asian country.

Such meetings complemented the memorandum of understanding seeking to promote the two countries' cooperation in the area of information broadcasting and dissemination that was signed during Datuk Mohamed's visit to Chile in May 1993.

Mohamed told the press that the commission will hold its first meeting in Santiago de Chile in June to try working out the details of the agreement that seeks to promote the exchange of news and political, educational, social, and cultural radio and television programs.

The minister said the commission will project Malaysia in the South American continent and promote Chile in Southeast Asia.

The agreement also will help the two nations' purpose of turning Chile into a Malaysian access door to South America and Malaysia into a Chilean access door to Southeast Asia.

Ambassador Linked to Italian Bribery Scandal

PY1802201394

[Editorial Report] Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish, in its 11 February issue, carries on page C3 a 900-word unattributed article about alleged links between Chilean Ambassador to Switzerland Alejandro Montesino and former Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi in a bribery scandal in Italy.

According to Peruvian congressman Fernando Olivera—who was interviewed in Lima by EL MERCURIO correspondent Anibal Alvarado—Montesino lived in Italy from 1974 to 1988 after the 1973 military coup in Chile. There he worked for the Italian Socialist Party and became "Craxi's man of trust" for international cooperation programs with Latin America. Olivera accuses Montesino of being involved in the bribes charged by several former Italian government officials to construction companies that carried out works in Latin America through the international cooperation program. "Olivera maintains that Montesino allegedly attended a meeting between Craxi and former Peruvian President Alan Garcia in September 1989 in the Excelsior Hotel." According to some former Peruvian government officials, Olivera said, "Montesino 'had authority delegated directly from Craxi.'"

The article also reports that Montesino, who is currently in Santiago recovering from a car accident while on vacation in southern Chile, categorically denied to EL MERCURIO the statements made by Olivera about his alleged involvement in the Italian bribery scandal on account of his relation with Craxi. Olivera made the accusation for publicity so "'I deny his charges categorically,'" Montesino says in the article.

Colombia

Guerrillas Detonate Device at American School in Cali

PA1802190894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1815 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 18 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Colombian guerrillas carried out another attack against U.S. interests today to protest the presence of a contingent of U.S. military engineers, a National Police spokesman reported.

The source said members of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CGSB) detonated an

explosive device at the American School parish in Cali, the third largest city in the country, resulting in no casualties but extensive property damage.

The attack, the second so far this week, destroyed windows in the school in the capital of Valle del Cauca Department, some 400 km. southeast of Santa Fe de Bogota, an official report stated.

Last Tuesday the rebels detonated an explosive device at a Mormon temple in Cali, causing extensive property damage.

The action is part of a campaign of attacks initiated by the rebels last January to protest the arrival of 150 U.S. Army soldiers from the U.S. Corps of Engineers, who are carrying out social projects in southwestern Colombia.

The CGSB issued a communique a few days ago saying all entities sponsored by the United States or by U.S. capital are considered military targets. Since that time, two seminarians from that country have been kidnapped and three Mormon temples and educational and financial centers in the largest cities have been attacked.

In the next few weeks, the Colombian Congress will investigate President Cesar Gaviria to determine if he did in fact violate the Constitution by authorizing the foreign mission to work in the country without permission from the Legislative Branch.

The police spokesman said security measures will be tightened at institutions or centers that are possible targets for attacks.

Moreover, rebel commando units torched four buses in Medellin, some 540 km northwest of this capital, which has frightened bus owners, many of whom have refused to provide service.

Anti-U.S. Groups Attack Baptist, Mormon Churches

PA1902042994 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Feb 94

[From the "Caracol's 0600-0900" newscast]

[Text] Cali— Two churches, one Baptist and one Mormon, were the targets of terrorist attacks this week in southern Cali. Responsibility for the attacks has been claimed by groups opposed to the presence of U.S. troops in Juanchaco.

U.S. Soldiers Reported in Southern Areas

PA1802202194 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1925 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Santa Fe de Bogota, 18 Feb (DPA)—It was learned today in Santa Fe de Bogota that residents of Tumaco, a port on the southern coast of Colombia, have charged that U.S. soldiers are allegedly conducting operations in that area.

The charges made to EL ESPECTADOR reporters in Narino Department, where Tumaco is located, state that soldiers, wearing uniforms with the acronym "USA" on them, have even been asking residents of the area for their identification papers.

According to several residents of that port town, the soldiers, who "are tall, well-built, and blond-haired" have conducted "sudden patrols" of the town, supposedly while conducting antidrug trafficking operations.

The alleged actions of the foreign soldiers adds yet another ingredient to the problem Colombia is facing because of the presence of some 150 U.S. soldiers in Juanchaco, a small town located along the Pacific coast but quite removed from Tumaco, where, according to official reports, they are building a school and health center.

The soldiers arrived in Colombia in early January and their arrival unleashed a heated debate that included the State Council asking congress to investigate President Cesar Gaviria for violating the country's sovereignty. [passage omitted]

Dispute Arises Over Cali Cartel Surrender Procedures

PA1902032794 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Report by Sandra Vergara from the "National" newscast; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff came to cool tempers. He assured he committed no irregularities in terms of the procedures for having Cali Cartel members surrender to justice. He met with Attorney General Carlos Arrieta early this morning, and he will meet with President Cesar Gaviria later this afternoon.

The prosecutor general will meet with the president of the Republic in a few hours to explain his position and the procedures carried out so far by the Prosecutor General's Office regarding the policy governing the surrender of Cali Cartel members.

After meeting with the prosecutor general, the attorney general today admitted there had been a confrontation between the Prosecutor General's Office and the Attorney General's Office because of a lack of clarity when charges were issued against alleged Cali Cartel members Olmedo Ocampo, Juan Carlos Ramirez, and Elmer Herrera.

[Arrieta] "State institutions cannot quarrel among themselves. It does not make sense. That is what government officials are for; that is why we sit down and talk, and when we talk, we make things clear and comprehensible. This does not mean there are no differences. There may be differences on various occasions."

On the other hand, the prosecutor general said a preliminary investigation continues against the three to uncover any facts that may incriminate them.

[De Greiff] "A permit or license to act illegally cannot possibly be issued in Colombia. It would be monstrous if this were possible. You cannot arrest a person just because an official thinks he is a criminal, only if you have proof that the person is a criminal."

The attorney general and the prosecutor general do not rule out the possibility that the alleged Cali Cartel members who presented themselves at the Prosecutor General's Office could have been taking part in a scheme designed to provoke a confrontation between the two government institutions.

[Arrieta] "We are not dealing with honest citizens or with common people. We are dealing with a drug cartel. When you negotiate with a cartel, you must start with the assumption that all sorts of things might happen. The state must develop the ability to understand, prepare itself, and avoid all of their tricks."

[De Greiff] "We are not going to let them drag us into their game. We are going to proceed with the law in our hands and with the formalities established by the law in our efforts to convict these people."

It was also stated that the process for the surrender of Cali Cartel members remains suspended. Another subject that has angered the prosecutor general is the rumors of an alleged mediation by the Prosecutor General's Office to put an end to the war between the Cali and Medellin Cartels.

[De Greiff] "Naturally, the Prosecutor General's Office cannot serve as mediator between criminal organizations to stop them from killing each other or to achieve peace between them. It would be atrocious if that were true. That is not the mission of the Prosecutor General's Office, nor would the Prosecutor General's Office accept such a mission."

Legal Sources Reject Mass Surrenders

PA1902160694 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Feb 94

[From "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast]

[Text] Credible legal sources have told Emisoras Caracol that members of the so-called Cali cartel will not surrender en mass because of penal code stipulations, more particularly because of the vagueness and ambiguity of Article 389-E, which lately has been the subject of a spirited controversy among the Prosecutor General's Office, the Attorney General's Office, and officials of the Justice Ministry.

This recent controversy has prompted lawyers of the drug traffickers, who are being accused by authorities, to revise their strategy. Therefore, one of the Ordinolas [as heard] and Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela might be surrendering soon.

The mass surrenders that were announced at the end of 1993, however, following Pablo Escobar's death, will not take place. This was fully confirmed to Emisoras Caracol.

In the meantime, "Caracol's 0600-0900" learned the United States is very concerned about the latest Cali cartel developments, and it has virtually suspended all cooperation in delivering and providing proof for pending trials of Cali cartel's leaders.

The refusal to deliver evidence is based on the fact that the U.S. Government and Justice Department are currently unclear about what path Colombian justice will take regarding the cartel. If the evidence were to be submitted to the Colombian Government, then the opportunity to use it in pending U.S. trials of the so-called drug traffickers will be lost.

Prosecutor's Remarks Cited

PA1902201094 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Feb 94

[From the "NTC" Newscast]

[Text] Cali cartel men, who appeared at the Prosecutor General's Office, have an extensive criminal record. Even though the prosecutor general said they do not have any outstanding debts with the justice system, their criminal record is extensive.

This is Elmer Herrera Buitrago. [video shows still photograph of man] The DEA, in one of its reports, calls him the drug king. He has been arrested five times in the United States for the possession of cocaine, conspiracy to distribute drugs, and conspiracy to escape. He served one sentence at the Oxford penitentiary. The DEA considers him to be the other big Cali cartel associate in charge of distributing drugs in New York and money laundering operations. When he appeared before the prosecutor general he said he was in fact captured, prosecuted, sentenced, and released for these crimes in the United States.

Jose Olmedo Campo Duque, another one of the three individuals who appeared before the prosecutor general's office, owns properties raided by authorities in several narcotics operations. His farm, called Miralindo, was raided during the Green Ice and Robledo III Operations. San Francisco de Portugal, another one of his properties, was also raided during the Robledo II and III operations following the assassination of Carlos Galan and the Green Ice Operation. This property is currently in the hands of the National Narcotics Council. The cars that were confiscated were turned over to the Civil Aeronautics authorities. At this same farm, authorities found Russian-made weapons, six passports with the same name, and savings accounts from banks in Panama, Guatemala, and Miami. He was investigated

for the killing of a Administrative Department of Security agent in 1990 and is still under investigation for vehicle theft and robbery.

On 2 May 1992, authorities raided his apartment on the 12th floor of the (Marley) Building in Cartagena. There they found weapons, various caliber ammunition, jewels, and a safe-conduct pass for Beatriz Elena Cuervo Londono. This raid was part of file No. 95-13 of a Santa Fe de Bogota public court order. The strange thing is that this file is under the name of Ivan Urdinola Grajales. In the Prosecutor General's Office files, this raid appears under another number, 15-156, a file which is still in the preliminary stages and which no one is responsible for yet. NTC News was able to determine that Jose Olmedo Campo Duque is still living on the 12th floor of this building.

Today, Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff said he knows about the criminal records of the Cali cartel men who went to his office, and he added that he does not believe the Cali cartel men will surrender in the next few hours.

The Prosecutor General's Office confirmed it knows about the raids and arrests made abroad against Jose Olmedo Campo Duque and Elmer Herrera Buitrago, alleged Cali drug traffickers. For the Prosecutor General's Office, however, these actions do not constitute enough evidence to link them to criminal drug trafficking activities.

[Begin De Greiff recording] Up until now we have not seen any evidence against him as a result of those raids. [end recording]

Herrera Buitrago said when he testified before De Greiff that he had been in prison for drug trafficking in the United States.

[Begin De Greiff recording] If he served a sentence in the past, then naturally it is in the past. [end recording]

Gustavo de Greiff said Cali cartel drug traffickers will not surrender in the next few hours.

[Begin De Greiff recording] We cannot say it is something imminent. [end recording]

Gustavo de Greiff said he will meet with the lawyers of the Cali drug traffickers and government officials the first week of March.

De Greiff Rules Out Immediate Surrender

PA2002030294 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 20 Feb 94

[From the "TV Today" newscast]

[Text] Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff said today that the country should not have any illusions over the imminent surrender of Cali Cartel drug traffickers, but added that in less than a month they will have probably turned themselves in. He also reiterated that there are no legal cases pending in Colombia against Pacho Herrera [not further identified], but that investigations shall continue.

Cali, Medellin Cartels Reportedly To Sign Peace Accord

PA1902203294 Paris AFP in Spanish 1722 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 19 Feb (AFP)—The daily EL TIEMPO, published in Santa Fe de Bogota, reported today that the Cali and Medellin cartels, Colombia's two largest cocaine trafficking organizations, are negotiating a peace agreement after seven years of bloody war. According to EL TIEMPO, negotiations began two months ago, just 15 days after an elite Army squad killed Medellin cartel's top leader Pablo Escobar on 2 December.

The majority of Escobar's most well-known and violent lieutenants are already in prison after voluntarily surrendering to justice to obtain the legal benefits granted by a special law offered by the government to drug traffickers who turn themselves in. Cali cartel leaders, through their lawyers, have contacted Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff to coordinate their surrender to justice.

According to EL TIEMPO, representatives from the two criminal organizations met clandestinely on 11 February somewhere in southwestern Valle del Cauca Department, where the Cali cartel is based, to negotiate a peace agreement. EL TIEMPO reported a pregnant woman was also present at the meeting, representing Escobar's widow.

After Escobar's death, his eldest son, Juan Pablo Escobar, issued a public call for peace to his father's enemies, asking them to put an end to the confrontation and offering to talk. EL TIEMPO says the Cali cartel practically imposed its conditions on the Medellin cartel to end the confrontation because, according to a source cited by the daily, "the winner imposes the conditions."

According to EL TIEMPO, Cali cartel leaders demanded the withdrawal of charges against brothers Fidel and Carlos Castano, who were accused of perpetrating an attack on a commercial plane that exploded on the air with 111 persons on board in December 1989, from Escobar's men. In their confessions to obtain a reduction of their sentences, Medellin cartel leaders reportedly accused the Castano brothers, well-known paramilitary chiefs, of perpetrating the terrorist attack on the plane.

Cali cartel members also demanded that their traditional enemies turn over to them a man identified as Julio Mamey, who is accused of murdering Antioquia Department Governor Antonio Roldan Betancur in July 1989 when a car bomb exploded as his car was passing by. Authorities blamed the Cali cartel for Roldan Betancur's murder; therefore, the Cali cartel wants Mamey to tell the Prosecutor General's office that he received the order

to kill the governor directly from Pablo Escobar, the Medellin cartel's slain chief.

The Cali cartel drug traffickers also demanded that the rest of Pablo Escobar's men who are still at large surrender to justice and serve the sentences issued by the Prosecutor General's Office. In addition, they demanded that Escobar's fortune be used to help the victims of the terrorism he unleashed during the past few years in Colombia.

Finally, EL TIEMPO reported that four of Escobar's top men, who are currently in prison, have already signed the peace agreement.

Bombs Explode at Venezuelan Consulate, Party Headquarters

PA2002144194 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1325 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Text] Medellin (Colombia), 20 Feb (DPA)—Several medium-intensity bombs exploded today at the Venezuelan Consulate in Medellin and at four political headquarters, injuring a child and causing considerable damage.

According to official spokesmen, the explosives were planted by Communist guerrillas, who over the past few days have intensified their attacks in an attempt to sabotage the congressional elections scheduled for 13 March.

The attacks caused considerable damage at the Venezuelan Consulate, two of the ruling Liberal Party's offices, and two of the Conservative Party's offices in various areas of Colombia's second largest city.

Yesterday the guerrillas abducted Deputy Tomas Devia in the southern department of Guaviare, and two policemen and one soldier were killed during an armed attack in the eastern town of Cucutilla.

Last week subversives kidnapped Senator Hernando Torres and Deputy Victor Buitrago in the central department of Boyaca. Campaigning politicians are now demanding that the government increase its security measures.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 1417 GMT on 20 February transmits a 50-word report stating the following: "The Colombian Guerrilla Coordinating Board today detonated bombs at the Venezuelan consulate and four political party offices in the city of Medellin. The explosions caused no deaths or injuries, according to the Metropolitan Police."]

Venezuelan Consul Comments on Attack

PA2002154694 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1505 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Report by Eugenio Correa]

[Text] Medellin—Carlos Gottberg Rivero, Venezuela's consul general in Medellin, told the Emisoras Caracol Network that he is surprised at the attitude of the terrorists who this morning destroyed the Venezuelan diplomatic facility in Medellin.

[Begin Rivero recording] My first impression is one of surprise, because we are a neighboring country. Venezuela is a country that shares common interests with Colombia, a good many Colombians live peacefully in Venezuela and many Venezuelans live in Colombia under conditions of stability and respect. I do not have the slightest idea why the terrorists chose to bomb this consulate. [end recording]

Rivero said the terrorist attacks may be an effort to create chaos in the city and to hinder investigations.

The Venezuelan consulate in Medellin must be transferred to another site due to the magnitude of the damage caused by the bomb explosion at 0548 this morning.

Bolivarian Militia Claims Responsibility

PA2102194394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1746 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Medellin (Colombia), 21 Feb (EFE)—Today, the Medellin Bolivarian Militia (urban guerrilla groups) claimed responsibility for the dynamite attacks perpetrated early Sunday against the Venezuelan consulate and four political party offices in Medellin, capital of Antioquia Department in the country's northwest.

According to police, the clandestine groups of Medellin's outskirts, linked to the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG], claimed responsibility for the attacks because they regard the peace negotiations between the government and a similar group, the People's Militia, as "treason."

Carlos Gottberg Riveros, Venezuelan consul to Medellin, said that although he does not know the reason for the attack, "it could have something to do with the subversives' interest in creating confusion in the city. My first impression is one of surprise because we live in a friendly country. Many Colombians live peacefully in Venezuela and many Venezuelans live in Colombia in stability and respect."

The bomb attacks only caused damage, estimated at some $30,000. The worst damage was sustained by the Venezuelan consulate, located in the Manrique-Rosales neighborhood, in the western part of Medellin.

The Bolivarian Militia of Medellin believe the negotiations between the Colombian Government and the People's Militia "are an unconditional surrender."

The attacks perpetrated in Medellin are part of a wave of CNG attacks throughout the country, including the kidnapping of two parliamentarians and one mayor as

well as clashes with policemen and soldiers in the outskirts of Santa Fe de Bogota.

Rebels Threaten To Kill Anyone Who Votes in Elections

PA2002165894 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] Guerrillas have threatened to kill residents of 12 Santander municipalities if they attempt to participate in the coming elections.

The guerrillas' plan to prevent the election process has been expanded to eastern Santander Department, where the subversives have intimidated voters in rural areas. Voter lists were destroyed in the area's municipalities and a warning was issued: No one will be allowed to go to the voting sites.

In the 12 municipalities where guerrilla raids have taken place, the rebels have warned that they will control highways until election day and will close the area to visiting political candidates.

The area where the death threat against voters has been made includes the municipalities of Surata, Chata, Matanzas, and Veta, all of them in eastern Santander, Santa Elena, [words indistinct], and Pata, where police have not been allowed to enter, and the entire province of Velez, where the guerrillas threaten to kill any candidates who attempt to visit the area. On Monday the mayors will present a report on the situation to the defense minister and the Army commander.

Guerrillas Kidnap Politician, Attack Cucutilla

PA2002180594 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1859 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 19 Feb (DPA)—Military sources in Santa Fe de Bogota announced today that individuals presumed to be Communist guerrillas kidnapped Colombian Deputy Tomas Devia and attacked Cucutilla, a town in eastern Colombia, resulting in the death of two policemen and one soldier.

The congressman was kidnapped in Guaviare Department in southern Colombia by several men who identified themselves as members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

The 63-year-old Devia, a member of the ruling Liberal Party, is Guaviare's deputy in the Chamber of Representatives and was campaigning for reelection in the 13 March congressional elections, according to sources close to him.

Members of the pro-Cuban Army of National Liberation (ELN) kidnapped Senator Hernando Torres and Deputy Victor Buitrago in Boyaca Department in central Colombia last weekend. Both men were also campaigning for reelection.

Meanwhile, government spokesmen pointed out that FARC and ELN guerrillas staged a joint attack on the town of Cucutilla, 350 km northeast of Santa Fe de Bogota, where they murdered two policemen and one soldier and destroyed a bank and the headquarters of the state Telephone Company (Telecom).

The police disclosed that 12 members of the ELN were captured in Antioquia Department in northwestern Colombia during an anti- kidnapping operation, among them two of the group's alleged ideologists, sociology students Myriam Giraldo and Fabian Masso.

It has been announced that the guerrillas' arrest marked the culmination of an operation by the police, who had discovered a case of self-abduction by a merchant who surrendered to the subversives to collect a $6 million insurance policy he had purchased abroad.

Guerrillas Attack Targets on Outskirts of Bogota

PA2102031294 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Feb 94

[From the "NTC News" newscast]

[Text] Two guerrilla attacks hit the outskirts of Bogota. In Pasca in the southeast and in Guasca in the northeast the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] attacked toll booths, communications antennas, and police stations. Just hours ago rebels from the 22d Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] launched simultaneous attacks against police stations in Aguaditas and Pasca and a toll booth in Alto de San Miguel, Cundinamarca. At 2130 [0330 GMT] 40 subversives from the Juan de La Cruz Front took positions in houses. They shot rockets and hurled grenades at the Aguaditas police station. For two hours four policemen faced the attack.

[Begin unidentified policeman recording] They arrived in a pickup truck and began shooting. Fortunately, my comrades and I did not panic and were able to face the situation. As you can see, we came through it without injuries. [end recording]

Meanwhile, another small group of the 22d FARC Front dynamited the Alto de San Miguel toll booth.

[Begin unidentified employee recording] They arrived at about 2100 and made us move our personnel away from the building, where they were collecting the toll payments. Then they blew up the installations. [end recording]

The authorities also reported that 60 rebels destroyed the Pasca police station. Seven policemen held off the attackers for eight hours.

Workers Seize Offices in Zipaquira; Rebel Attacks Noted

PA2102223994 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Feb 94

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] In Zipaquira, Alcalis de Colombia workers took over the mayor's office and several other public offices demanding the payment of pensions and severance pay after the company was liquidated.

In addition, two new guerrilla attacks were registered in the last few hours in the Departments of Cundinamarca and Meta. In La Pena two policemen were killed and six were injured. In San Juan de Arama Municipality, Meta Department, Jorge Carmelo Perez, former Villavicencio mayor and Chamber representative candidate, was kidnapped.

Security Meetings Held on Guerrilla Activities

PA2102193094 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1738 GMT 21 Feb 94

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] Guerrilla activities have caused special security council meetings to be held today in several cities throughout the country. Government Minister Fabio Villegas traveled to Santander to preside over a Ministers Council meeting where electoral guarantees for Boyaca, Santander and Norte de Santander Departments would be discussed.

In Bucaramanga, the Democracy Plan has been presented in the presence of the government minister, the commander of the military forces, governors, and police commanders from the area of the Army's 2d Division. Alvaro Salgar, governor of Santander del Norte Department, said the following:

[Begin Salgar recording] We hope to support election day. We hope to have an airplane available to transport units to the many voting areas and also a couple helicopters for any emergencies. [end recording]

Although the subversives have announced a plan to sabotage the elections, state forces have guaranteed that they will be at all the voting centers. Members of the National Civil Registry Office are also participating in the meeting. They will establish which voting tables will have the most dangers, which will allow them to provide the required security for the upcoming elections. The Democracy Plan will also be presented this afternoon in Yopal, Casanare.

Cundinamarca Violence Considered

PA2102202194 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1739 GMT 21 Feb 94

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] Cundinamarca Department has been among the hardest hit by the guerrillas, who have staged five attacks over the past few hours. This has prompted the authorities to increase security.

A special security council meeting is under way at this hour at the Cundinamarca governor's office. Presiding over the council are Governor Manuel Guillermo Infante, 13th Brigade Commander General Norberto Adrada, and Cundinamarca Police Commander Colonel Roberto Fajardo.

Departmental authorities are considering the serious public order problem which affected at least five towns in the department this weekend. The authorities are considering new strategies to counteract the guerrillas' actions and security measures to guarantee the electoral campaign. This weekend in Cundinamarca, the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] implemented a strategy aimed at isolating Bogota, which was drafted at the most recent guerrilla summit in La Uribe. The guerrillas operate on four fronts. In the south, they are located in the municipalities of Fusagasuga, Cabrera, Pasca, Gutierrez, Chipaque, and Fomeque. In the east, they are located in the municipalities of Ubala, Chacala, and the Chingaza area. In the northwest, they are located in Yacopi, Caparrapi, and Topaipi in La Palma and Villa Gomez on the Boyaca border.

Government Minister Notes Protection for Candidates

PA2102144194 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 94

[From the "Caracol 0600 to 0900" newscast]

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—Government Minister Fabio Villegas Ramirez, in pointing out his concern for the escalation of terrorism over the weekend, when subversives perpetrated a number of actions in Antioquia, Meta, Arauca, Cundinamarca, and Tolima Departments, has said the government has not been weak in maintaining public order in the country but that it is implementing measures to give adequate protection to those are working in the current electoral process.

Villegas reported on the protection provided for candidates to government positions but admitted that many of them do not want to be subjected to this type of control.

Valledupar Mayor Explains Guerrilla Checkpoint Events

PA2102190394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1736 GMT 21 Feb 94

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] A frustrated Valledupar Mayor Rodolfo Campos Soto told the National Newscast of how events unfolded at a guerrilla check point only 20 minutes away from his city.

[Begin recording] [Campos] We were returning from (?Mayapola) when, somewhere between Mayangola and Aguas Biancas, we discovered the guerrillas had set up a check point obstructing traffic. The guerrillas stopped every vehicle and encouraged support for a group called Caribbean Bloc composed of several FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] fronts. They distributed a communique protesting the presence of U.S. troops in the country; they preached to the people who were there; and, after an hour and a half, allowed traffic to begin circulating again.

[Unidentified reporter] Were they aware of your presence, Mr. Mayor?

[Campos] No. My presence went totally unnoticed, which was also the case with the president of the Municipal Assembly, the president of the Municipal Council, Chamber of Representatives candidate Mauro Tapia, several councilmen, and virtually the entire municipal administration. The guerrillas were there simply to promote their new Caribbean Bloc. [end recording]

Argentina's Menem Arrives for 48-Hour Visit

PA1902151594 Paris AFP in Spanish 0418 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, 18 Feb (AFP)—Friday evening, Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem arrived in this colonial beach resort on the Caribbean where he will remain until Monday when he will travel to Santa Fe de Bogota to initiate a 48-hour visit to Colombia.

Menem, who arrived from Ecuador amid tight security measures, which even prevented the media from having access to the local airport, met for a few minutes with his Colombian colleague Cesar Gaviria at the hotel where he is staying.

On 21 and 22 February, both presidents will discuss various bilateral and multilateral topics and sign agreements in the fields of telecommunications, scientific cooperation, education, culture, and environment.

According to the official schedule released here, Menem will meet with Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin at the Catam military air terminal in Santa Fe de Bogota on Monday shortly before noon. He should be at the Presidential Palace by 1500 to hold his first work session with Gaviria.

Afterwards the visiting president will visit the Congress of the Republic, he will meet with Argentines living in Colombia, and during the evening he will attend a banquet in his honor hosted by Gaviria.

On Tuesday, Menem will have breakfast with a group of businessmen; he will inaugurate a satellite reception station north of the city, which is run by the Impast enterprises, an Argentine company. He will receive the keys to Santa Fe de Bogota from Mayor Jaime Castro, and he will place a wreath at the Simon Bolivar monument at the Simon Bolivar Plaza.

At noon, he will host a luncheon for President Gaviria at the Argentine Embassy and three hours later he will unveil a monument in memory of Evita Peron, also north of the Colombian capital.

Later on he will meet with Gaviria and their respective delegations to sign the agreements reached, after which he will hold a news conference, and before leaving Colombia, he will be awarded an honorary economics degree granted by Our Lady of the Rosary College.

Foreign Minister Guido di Tella; Admiral Enrique Emilio Molina, Navy chief of staff; Military House Chief General Jorge Rearte; Culture Minister Jose Maria Castineira; Tourism Minister Francisco Alberto Mayorga; and several parliamentarians accompany Menem on his visit to Colombia.

Speaks on Gaviria, Cuba

PA2102214094 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1804 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Text] Cartagena de Indias, 20 Feb (DPA)—In statements made today, Argentine President Carlos Menem said in Cartagena de Indias—where he is on a private visit—that Cuba might rejoin the OAS if it becomes democratic. Menem referred to the subject when he was asked about the possibility that this might be one of the objectives of Colombian President Cesar Gaviria in case he is elected OAS secretary general because of the role he has played during the past year with regard to the Cuban Government making democratic changes.

"It might be," said the Argentine president who is known for his hard stand with regard to the Fidel Castro regime. Nonetheless, he added that Cuba's reentry can only take place when democracy prevails on the island. The visitor added that "no one likes to see a country excluded," but he insisted that Castro has been in power for 35 years and it is necessary to make some changes now, as has happened in other nations of the area that had long periods of dictatorships.

The Argentine president arrived on Friday in Cartagena de Indias and tomorrow will begin a two-day official visit in Santa Fe de Bogota. He also said that Gaviria has the capacity to be OAS secretary general, but he commented that his victory depends on how much support the other candidate, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus, has for the post. Menem added that his Colombian counterpart has the virtues for becoming a good secretary general of the multilateral organization because "he is a qualified, good, and resourceful man and he has carried out a very good administration in Colombia."

Meanwhile, in statements published today in the daily EL TIEMPO, Menem defended his economic model and said that due to the results, people are starting to talk about the "Argentine miracle." Menem explained that the model is based on a people's market economy that is

accompanied by a strong policy of social solidarity. "We are absolutely convinced that this model is the only one that allows us to take up once again the path of growth and higher standards of living for the entire population," he said.

As the main achievements of his government, Menem pointed out the elimination of inflation, monetary stability, elimination of the budget deficit, the privatization of several enterprises, renegotiation of the foreign debt, and a drastic reduction of tax evasion.

While in Cartagena de Indias, the Argentine president has been visiting tourist spots and playing tennis and golf with Gaviria, with whom he will travel tomorrow to Santa Fe de Bogota to begin an official visit. It was learned that Menem and Gaviria will sign important agreements, one on judicial cooperation matters in the struggle against narcotics trafficking and terrorism and another one that regulates animal sanitation measures in order to increase trade in agriculture and livestock.

Menem is scheduled to arrive in Santa Fe de Bogota at 1100 at a military airport where he will be received by Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin. In the afternoon the two presidents will meet at the House of Narino (government palace). Later on, Menem will speak with leaders of Congress and leaders of the Argentine community residing in Colombia, while on Tuesday he will have breakfast with Colombian businessmen, unveil a monument in memory of Eva Peron, and sign agreements with Gaviria.

Ecuador

Duran-Ballen Reportedly Dismisses Information Minister

PA2202015594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0028 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Quito, 21 Feb (EFE)—According to press reports, President Sixto Duran-Ballen dismissed Ecuadoran Information Minister Carlos Vera Rodriguez for showing disrespect for the command hierarchy by criticizing Vice President Alberto Dahik.

The president refused to confirm or deny such reports and noted that it will be Vera himself who will refer to this matter at a news conference that he will hold tomorrow, Tuesday.

Vera, a well-known journalist and radio and television producer in his country, urged Dahik to straighten up and not "spread rumors." Vera made this remark after the vice president announced that the government is studying the possibility of convoking a plebiscite on topics that have not been disclosed by government spokesmen yet.

The Ecuadoran vice president was elected to that post while ministers get appointed. According to television, radio, and newspaper reports, this explains the government hierarchy.

Police Discover Cartel Plan To Distribute Drugs to U.S.

PA1802044694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2055 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Quito, 16 Feb (EFE)—Ecuadoran police have discovered an alleged plan of the Colombian "Medellin Cartel" to establish a branch in Guayaquil, Ecuador's second largest city, from where it was going to distribute drugs to the United States and Europe, local media reported today, Wednesday.

According to the source, the arrest of Colombian drug trafficker Jorge Andrade Caliz during "Operation Victory" a few days ago allowed Ecuadoran police to discover the plan. Andrade Caliz, who is linked to the "Medellin Cartel," had 372 kilos of cocaine when he was arrested.

The Ecuadoran Drug Police also arrested Colombians Morlan Marulanda Mejia and Victoria Eugenia Hurtado and Ecuadoreans Telmo Iturralde Merchan and Cecilia Navarrete Munoz.

Government Reaches Agreement With IMF, World Bank

PA2002024694 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0126 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Quito, 17 Feb (DPA)—The Ecuadoran Government announced it has reached an agreement with the IMF after hiking fuel prices to eliminate the fiscal deficit. This agreement is the first step to renew foreign debt renegotiations.

"We already have the backing for our economic program," Central Bank President Augusto de la Torre said after concluding his Washington meetings with the IMF, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

An IMF delegation will visit Quito in March, and it has not been ruled out that at the end of the Quito meetings the respective letter of intent and a biannual "standby" [preceding word in English] agreement could be signed. This agreement would allow the government to renew negotiations on the commercial portion of its foreign debt. Both the renegotiation as well as the service of this $6.5 billion portion have been suspended since August 1992, when the liberal government of Sixto Duran-Ballen took office.

The total Ecuadoran debt, according to the latest official reports, amounts to $12.6 billion.

The letter of intent will include the Ecuadoran pledge to continue its structural reform programs with a government reduction, a public spending reduction, and greater reduction of the inflation rate that is currently at 29 percent a year.

Nevertheless, the constitutionality of the fuel increase, in effect since 29 January, is the subject of an appeal before the Supreme Court of Justice which could suspend the increase. According to the government that "would topple the whole economic program."

Argentine President Arrives on Official Visit

PA1802135694 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Report by Patricio Gonzalez]

[Text] In statements to the Ecuadoran media, Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem stated this visit was aimed at improving political, economic, and social relations. He indicated that his country is going through an in-depth modernization process, which might not be the most beneficial, but which is undoubtedly showing results and which he plans to continue implementing.

[Begin recording] [Menem] [Words indistinct] the Ecuadoran people with the assurance that our relations will continue [words indistinct] in political, economic, and social areas. That is why we have come here today and [words indistinct].

[Unidentified reporter] Then you are willing to abide by the decisions of [words indistinct]

[Menem] Of course, of course.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Menem] Well, I am grateful and comforted by your welcome. [Words indistinct] I feel for this wonderful people. Thank you. Thank you very much.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Menem] The list includes numerous items. This list includes items which we Argentines can exchange and introduce here in Ecuador.

[Reporter] Mr. President, can you comment on the relationship between the private sector and the state to push the privatization process forward?

[Menem] Well, that is an issue that depends on the Ecuadoran Government and people. Argentina is experiencing an in-depth tranformation process. Our model may or may not be acceptable, but it has yielded excellent results for us.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Menem] Well, basically, to do things intelligently, meticulously, honestly, and with a significant dose of courage. [end recording]

Subsequently, upon receiving the keys of the city from the hands of Quito Mayor [name indistinct], President Carlos Menem called for the union of all nations of the great American continent in solidarity. He stressed that unresolved challenges must encourage all of us to search for solutions to the problems of poverty that persist in our society and to provide social improvements to society as a whole.

Duran-Ballen, Menem Sign Accords

PA2002002794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2227 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Quito, 18 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen and Argentine President Carlos Menem signed in Quito today four cooperation agreements and one financial protocol worth $45 million to build three roads in Ecuador.

The economic, trade, sanitation, and academic agreements were signed in the Carondelet Palace, seat of the Ecuadoran Government, at the end of the Argentine president's official visit to Ecuador.

Both presidents highlighted the excellent level of diplomatic relations between their countries during an act in which a consortium of Argentine banks granted funds to build three roads in the Amazon region.

The governments established an agreement for reciprocal investment promotion and protection, which became effective immediately. They also agreed on the mutual recognition of academic grades, certificates, and titles.

In a political declaration, Duran-Ballen and Menem highlighted increased bilateral links in all fields during the first official visit of an Argentine president to Quito. Both governments ratified their pledge to bolster and consolidate the democratic system in Latin America, defend human rights, and boost peace in the area.

Both presidents spoke in favor of dialogue and the peaceful solution to territorial and political problems that involve Latin American countries. They reiterated their support and assistance to UN and OAS efforts to maintain world and regional peace.

In a joint news conference, President Menem denied he intends to impose an economic model that "has been so successful for Argentina," but expressed his willingness to cooperate with other governments' modernization efforts. He also downplayed the "circumstantial" social outbreak his government had to face in Santiago del Estero, which he attributed to the "incapacity" and bad administration of local authorities.

Menem and his retinue, about 30 people including officials, legislators, and businessmen, were seen off by Ecuadoran authorities at the Mariscal Sucre Air Force Base in Quito at 1530 (2030 GMT), bound to Cartagena, Colombia.

The Argentine president will rest during the weekend at this beach resort, and on Monday he will begin his official visit to Colombia.

Peru

Reportage on La Cantuta Case Developments

CCD Head Defends Army Commander

PA1902011894 Paris AFP in Spanish 0257 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Lima, 17 Feb (AFP)—On 17 February, Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka, president of the Peruvian Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD], said General Nicolas De Bari Hermoza, commander of the Armed Forces Joint Command and Army commander, "is innocent of the disappearance and deaths of the 10 people at La Cantuta University."

During a news conference, Yoshiyama added: "The opposition is seeking to politicize the case by involving a general who has been very successful in the battle against terrorism in incidents in which he did not participate. Frankly, they are very mistaken in regard to Gen. Hermoza."

Yoshiyama, who by law is the vice president of the Republic but who does not perform the duties of the office, said the opposition is also attempting to involve high-ranking Army and intelligence officers in this case.

The CCD president also rejected statements being made by many people, including Catholic Church Bishop Augusto Vargas Alzamora, for military justice to impose the harshest punishment possible on those guilty of the disappearance and deaths of nine La Cantuta students and one professor.

"I believe a 20-year sentence for the guilty parties, as requested by the military prosecutor, is a drastic and severe sentence," the president of the CCD stressed.

The military prosecutor believes that six soldiers participated in the incident, and the punishment requested for them is between 15 and 20 years in prison each. The sentences requested for the other five soldiers, who are all charged with negligence, range from 30 days to five years in prison.

Since April 1993, the Peruvian opposition has been demanding "Hermoza's resignation so that justice can be meted out freely, because, as commander of the Armed Forces, the soldiers involved in La Cantuta case were under his command." Likewise, the opposition has also reiterated the charge made by Gen. Rodolfo Robles, who is currently in exile in Argentina. Gen. Robles has said "Gen. Hermoza is harboring" the death squad that carried out the killings at La Cantuta University in July 1992.

Military Spokesman Cited

PA1802192994 Paris AFP in Spanish 1605 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Lima, 18 Feb (AFP)—A military spokesperson announced today that the Supreme Council of Military Justice (CSJM) began trying the 11 soldiers charged with the disappearance and deaths of a professor and nine students of La Cantuta University. The trial is being held behind closed doors and strict security measures are being observed.

CSJM Secretary Major Alvaro Castro told the press that the CSJM ordered the transfer of the prisoners to the Simon Bolivar Garrison where the trial will be conducted. This was done last night. The press will be denied access to the trial and only civilian lawyers will be allowed entry.

Further on Opening of Trial

PA1902041994 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Feb 94

[From the "Global TV News" newscast]

[Text] The trial of the 11 military men charged with the disappearance and deaths of nine students and a professor at Enrique Guzman y Valle University, also known as La Cantuta, started at 0930 today in a specially prepared room in the Simon Bolivar garrison building.

The civilian parties were not present at the proceedings. General Luis Chacon Jara, who presided over the proceedings, waited half an hour for the lawyers of the victims' relatives. Their failure to appear confirmed their decision not to attend and participate in the trial.

Despite the secrecy with which the trial is being conducted, it filtered out that prosecutor Saul Calledo opened the trial by reading a summary of the preliminary proceedings and demanding sentences from three months to 20 years for the various accused men.

Two of the military men, Colonel Guzman Calderon and Gen. Rivero Lasso, were interrogated this afternoon. The questioning will continue tomorrow at 0900.

Two criminologists are of the opinion that, should the existing penal code be applied, the maximum sentence that the involved military men would receive would be life for the clearly typified crimes of kidnapping and manslaughter.

The La Cantuta case, which created a crisis in the government when it was transferred to a military court, is still being debated due to the penalties demanded by the military prosecutor, Col. Raul Calledo Valdivieso. Several authorities have described the penalties as mild because the existing penal code is being applied to military law. It has been reported that the penalties demanded for the accused range from two to 20 years for the crimes of homicide, kidnapping, abuse of authority, and oversight.

According to a comparative chart, simple homicide receives a minimum sentence of six years and a maximum of 20 years under military law, while under the civilian code such a crime is punished with a maximum penalty of life. Under common law kidnapping receives at least 10 years, but the crime does not exist under military law.

Sentences Handed Down

PA2202032194 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Feb 94

[From the "Global TV News" newscast]

[Text] As had been announced this afternoon, the military court of the Supreme Council of Military Justice handed down sentences on the military personnel accused of the kidnapping and murder of nine students and one professor from La Cantuta University. The sentences ranged from one to 20 years in prison.

The military court also decided to acquit Colonel Manuel Guzman Calderon when it was established that he had been transferred from the command of the university's civic action before the crime. At the end of one hour, the length of the hearing at the Simon Bolivar military quarters in Pueblo Libre, the following verdict was read: Brigade General Juan Rivero Lasso, five years in prison and a fine of 50,000 new soles as civil compensation in favor of the state; Colonel Federico Navarro Perez, four years in prison, payment of civil compensation for the same amount; Major Santiago Martin Rivas, 20 years prison; and Major Carlos Pichilingue Guevara, 20 years prison. Both officers jointly will have to pay 500,000 new soles as civil compensation. Captain Jose Adolfo Velarde was only sentenced to one year prison; this will have been served by 14 July taking into account time already served. Velarde will have to pay 10,000 new soles as civil compensation. Noncommissioned officers Pedro Suppo Sanchez, Julio Chuqui Aguirre, Nelson Carbajal Garcias, and Jose Antonio Sosa Saavedra were sentenced to 15 years in prison each and ordered to pay a collective civil compensation of 2 million new soles to the victims' legal inheritors. The military court resolved to file the legal case against Lieutenant Aquilino Portela who is at large.

Meanwhile, the military prosecutor and the district attorney did not agree with the verdicts, indicating they will file an appeal. The sentenced officers, one by one, indicated they would appeal their sentences.

Editor of Paper Linked to Shining Path Captured

PA1902164094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0435 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] Lima, 18 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Today, authorities reported that Walter Rojas Herrera, editor of the publication which is said to be the official paper of the Peruvian rebel group Shining Path, was captured with six alleged members of this armed group.

The Peruvian National Counterterrorism Directorate said the editor of the newspaper EL DIARIO, who goes by the alias Antonio, was arrested with six other suspected hard-line members of Shining Path.

The other people captured were identified at their presentation to the press on Friday as Nestor Camancho, Emilio Romero, Maria Linares, Roy Hernandez, Oscar Tapoa, and Sebastian Cabanillas.

State of Emergency Extended 60 Days in Piura

PA1902163194 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1611 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] Lima, 19 Feb (DPA)—Today, the Peruvian Government extended the state of emergency in Huancabamba Province, Piura Department, in northern Peru for 60 days. Therefore, several constitutional guarantees have been suspended and the Armed Forces are responsible for internal order.

Drug Trafficker 'El Vaticano' Given Life Sentence

PA2002033694 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Feb 94

[From the "Global TV News" newscast]

[Text] According to an official communique issued by the Supreme Military Justice Council, Demetrio Chavez Penaherrera, alias El Vaticano, Peru's most powerful drug trafficker, was sentenced today by a military court to life imprisonment. He will serve this sentence at the Callao Naval Base where he will be Abimael Guzman's neighbor.

According to a document circulated today by the Supreme Military Justice Council, Chavez was sentenced to life and will serve it at the maximum security prison at the Callao Naval Base, possibly in a cell next to or near terrorist leader Abimael Guzman Reynoso.

Demetrio Limonier Chavez Penaherrera, alias El Vaticano, has been condemned for treason against the fatherland and the state, but he will be tried for illegal drug trafficking in a civilian court. El Vaticano, however, will not go the Justice Palace offices. Instead, the penal judge will go to the naval base installations just as has already been done once, according to information given by a military spokesmen.

El Vaticano was captured in Cali, Colombia, where he was living. According to what has been established, however, he continued handling the drug business in the Peruvian jungle. The criminal, who is now serving a life sentence, was considered Peru's most powerful drug trafficker due to the amount of drugs he collected and shipped to Colombia to be converted into cocaine for subsequent shipment to the U.S. and European markets.

Venezuela

Foreign Ministry Issues Communique on Consulate Attack

PA2102002994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2323 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Text] Caracas, 20 Feb (EFE)—The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry has announced in an official communique that Carlos Gottberg, the Venezuelan consul general in Colombia, was not hurt in a terrorist attack which took place in the Colombian city of Medellin early this morning.

The bomb explosion at the offices of the Venezuelan consulate did not inflict any casualties but it did cause serious property damage.

When informed about the situation, German Carreras Damas, the Venezuelan ambassador to Colombia, immediately made contact with the consular offices in Medellin and requested an explanation from the Colombian Government.

Foreign Ministry sources told EFE that the Venezuelan Government will formally ask the Colombian authorities for their cooperation in providing the proper protection to its diplomats on the territory of the neighboring country.

Burelli Denies Venezuelan Merchants Supporting ELN

PA2102011494 Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 16 Feb 94 p 23

[Report by Patricia Rodriguez]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli denied reports stating that the Colombian Army of National Liberation (ELN) is receiving economic and military support from Venezuelan merchants.

The rebels are allegedly creating border commandos to operate along the border separating Venezuela and Colombia. "I have no idea what the reports are based on and I am going to ask where they are coming from. This is all based on supposition," he said.

The Colombian daily EL TIEMPO said that certain documents seized from the ELN indicate that the rebel group, with the support of Venezuelan merchants, is trying to create a permanent military force. Their purpose is to intensify their terrorist strategy in Colombia against the state and against Japanese, European, and U.S. multinational corporations. The documents held by the Colombian newspaper, describing the guerrilla organization's military plans and the support they receive from Venezuelan merchants, reveal the complicity of a large chain of Venezuelan stores in the planning and execution of several kidnappings near the border for the ELN. Military intelligence analysts, quoted by the Colombian daily, indicate that the ELN formed logistics commandos, which have been channeling financial resources from Venezuela into Colombia since August 1993. The operation is coordinated by a committee the rebels call "Border Coordinators" [Coordinadores de la Frontera], which are in constant contact with the Venezuelan liaisons promoting the insurgent movement. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Montero On Rebel Officers' Status

PA2102162094 Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 18 Feb 94 p 24

[Report by Jose M. Rojas]

[Text] The Defense Ministry, through General Rafael Montero Revette, has reported that leaders of the bloody 4 February and 27 November coup attempts have expressed to the government their interest in reaching agreements to resolve the current situation. Gen. Montero said there are no preexisting conditions for dismissing the proceedings against them. Gen Montero, who arrived with High Military Command members, met with President Rafael Caldera at the Miraflores presidential building.

Montero said informal talks have been held with the coupists who fled to Peru on 27 November but that these contacts have not been held at the Defense Ministry level. There is great interest in resolving the problem, not only for those imprisoned in Venezuela, but for those living abroad as well. Francisco Visconti and other exiles asked about their legal situation and were told that everything was status quo. Montero said the coupists are willing to return, but the government has not established any prerequisites for their return. "No one has been told to apply for discharge," he said. This government position was also reported to Commander Hugo Chavez, who has not been pressured to request his discharge. The minister said he has not personally talked to Chavez. "But I know he has every intention of helping to solve the detained officers' problem." Montero denied Chavez has demanded his proceedings be dismissed based on a decision to discharge him. Montero said none of the officers have been pressured in this sense.

In addition, Montero said the Armed Forces and the government will help those who ask to be discharged to get a job so they do not have any problems. The files of those who do not request to be discharged will be studied carefully but none will be forced to request it. All of the files are being studied. Some of them have been approved and the officers have been released. Others will probably be released, too. The Military Justice Administration, Legal Advisory Office, and Defense Ministry are currently considering each of the files.

[Rojas] Will the officers benefited by dismissing the proceedings remain in the Armed Forces?

[Montero] Probably.

[Rojas] Can you guarantee that they will not become a reason for division in the Armed Forces should they be readmitted?

[Montero] We will first consider who will be reinstated.

Montero finally referred to rumors that Venezuelan businessmen support Colombian guerrillas at the border. The minister said the Military Intelligence Directorate is investigating, but he does not believe there are "Venezuelan traitors."

Banco Latino Intervention Board Resigns in Protest

PA1802170994 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 17 Feb 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] Members of the Intervention Board investigating Banco Latino have disclosed that they sent a message to Bank Superintendent Roger Urbina resigning from their duties at that financial institution. Members Julio Santodomingo, German Ollar, and Tasalio Cadena were appointed to the Intervention Board on 21 January. The three board members said they were to have broad powers of administration, disposition, control, and surveillance, including all duties that the law and by-laws grant to the general assembly, the board of directors, and the other bodies of the intervened institution.

Nevertheless, the treasury minister reported that the executive had decided—within a special program set up to handle the Banco Latino problem—to appoint an administrative board that would cooperate with the Intervention Board. Tesalio Cadena, Julio Santodomingo, and German Ollar Sabal rejected the appointment, saying that there cannot be an administrator of the administrators. In any event, these high-ranking officials believe they have fulfilled their duty to the extent possible.

[Begin recording] [Tasalio] We are acting in keeping with our consciences. We were not consulted on this measure. We have our self-respect, and that is why we have resigned.

[Unidentified reporter] So where does that leave the Bank?

[Tasalio] That's the problem of the other board.

[Santodomingo] Our priority was to protect the account holders. I do not participate in politics. I am not looking for a ministry or an economic position. I accepted this position only to defend the depositors. [end recording]

In any event, the new intervention board must wait for a report on the Bank's current status to decide if this financial institution can be salvaged or not, although the auditors have the last word. Meanwhile, Bank Superintendency Director Roger Urbina replied to the members of the Banco Latino Intervention Board.

[Begin Urbina recording] I have not been officially informed of their resignation. If I receive their resignation, another intervention board will be appointed; if not, the same board will continue, whatever is appropriate. The important thing is to do whatever must be done quickly, because we can't lose another minute in Banco Latino's follow-up, intervention, and possible recovery. [end recording]

The Banco Latino situation, far from being solved, is becoming more difficult as it will force the Venezuelan Government to make specific decisions to punish those responsible for this financial institution's crisis. In any event, Roger Urbina will not accept the Intervention Board's resignation until it is official.

Finance Minister Comments

PA2002035294 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 18 Feb 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez denied press reports stating that Carlos Hernandez had been appointed as the person who would be responsible for the Banco Latino intervention process.

[Begin Sosa recording] He was never a candidate. So far there are no candidates and that is something that must be determined by the president of the Republic. There are some persons who, considering the superintendent's resignation, could occupy the position. I believe that at this moment it would not be fitting for me to start speculating on names. As I said, that will be determined by the president after discussing it with the Senate of the Republic. [end recording]

The finance minister's statements were made after his five hour interpellation before the National Congress. He also referred to the resignation by Banco Latino's intervention board and stated that the creation of an administration board will not undermine the authority of those who are already involved. According to him, it is only a manner of expediting the entire process. In conclusion, he did not discard the possibility that Fogade's [Deposit Guarantee Fund] financial assistance to some banks could be eliminated.

[Begin Sosa recording] We would first have to determine what the situation is, because transient financial assistance which, let's say, does not increase, could help to stabilize a specific situation. However, I believe that financial assistance that is constantly on the rise will undoubtedly lead us to at least some type of intervention. [end recording]

Caldera Opposed to Dissolution

PA2002134194 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 18 Feb 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] President Rafael Caldera met a few minutes ago with representatives of the Banco Latino Depositors Front, who delivered a letter to him demanding that the bank not be dissolved, punishment for those responsible, supervision of those in charge of the intervention, and a satisfactory solution for those savings depositors who have yet to be paid. The Depositors Front has thus requested the urgent intervention of the president for a prompt solution.

[Begin Caldera recording] I would like to tell you briefly that the government has not stopped to figure out how much it will cost to solve the Banco Latino problem but how and when can we obtain the funds to solve it. [applause] If the coffers were full and oil receiving a reasonable market price, if we did not have the terrible fiscal deficit, then undoubtedly the government would not have hesitated to assign all the needed funds to solve the problem immediately.

There are paths toward a solution, and the most advantageous is the one you have suggested. There is the concerned solidarity of the Legislative Branch, the executive branch, the various public administration organizations, the private sector, and public opinion in general to ensure all paths explored will be truly efficient. We have ruled out the possibility of sensationalist measures that can have an initial impact but will fail to lead to a definitive solution.

We agree that we should not consider dissolving the bank, and hopefully it will not come up as an option. [applause] We believe there is a way for the bank to recover, a way for the bank to establish itself once again on healthy, solid, and honest grounds, to be able to save not only the small savings account holders but all depositors who in entrusted their funds to Banco Latino in good faith. [end recording]

Banco Latino Intervention Board Installed

PA2102225994 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 21 Feb 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] The Banco Latino Intervention Board was installed today. Gustavo Roosen will preside over the commission until 22 March, when President Rafael Caldera will appoint a new intervention official. Edgar Dao, president of Banco del Caribe; Celso Dominguez, vice president of Banco Mercantil; (Jack Vera), president of (Fidenes); and German Garcia, manager of the Venezuelan Bank of Credit, will accompany Roosen on the board.

Regarding the specific problems the institution is facing, Gustavo Roosen stated that it would be better to reactivate the financial institution and get it working again, instead of liquidating it altogether. Julio Santodomingo, the intervention board's outgoing president, said the body's achievements were satisfactory when compared to similar intervention efforts with other banks. Roger Urbina, the outgoing bank superintendent at the General Bank Superintendency, described other such investigations forwarded by the Executive Branch in recent years He said that the measures taken in the Banco Latino case are no stronger or weaker than those in any other case.

[Begin Urbina recording] During the last few days I have repeatedly said that the General Bank Superintendency moved in accordance with the law. It abided by the laws ruling such interventions when it examined and acted against Banco Latino. The examination process was identical to all other bank examinations carried out on other financial institutions. If this process can be called weak or lenient, then all such examinations are lenient. If it is strong, then they are all strong. There are no exceptions to the rule, much less with Banco Latino. [end recording]